





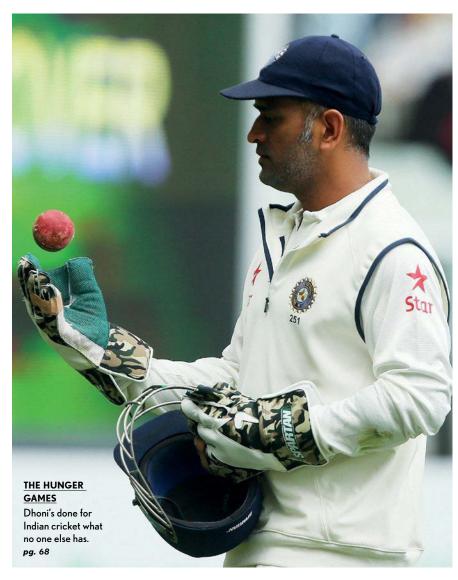
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Features Kiara Advani Bollywood's hottest new debutant keep it real. M.S. DHONI Sports Illustrated India editor Siddhanth Aney takes us on a decade-long cricketing ride. 76 THE HOTTEST GIRLS NEXT DOOR An afternoon spent poolside with the KS Miss Maxim 2015 winners. 86 ALEX ZANARDI The legendary racecar driver cheated death and defied the doubters to return to a life in the fast lane. KS MISS MAXIM 2015: BEHIND THE SCENES What really went on during the hunt for the hottest girlnext-door. 104 MATTHEW MCCONAUGHEY The Oscar-winning star on starting over, the Lone Star State and why he loves American football. 108 DRESS TO KILL Own the night in 007-worthy formal attire. 121 MANISH PAUL The actor and funnyman takes a trip to the afterlife.



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ARENA

A MAN'S WORLD





RUSSELL PETERS BRINGS THE FUNNY A DUDE-FRIENDLY BLOODY MARY A DRINK WITH MINI MATHUR CHARLIE DAY LIKES IT WEIRD







It begins at a San Francisco stoplight, when a sun-kissed brunette rolls up next to the 2016 Mercedes-AMG GT S I'm driving. "Oh, my God. That car is so beautiful. What is that?"

Not five minutes into our drive, the car passes its first test: Women dig it.

Mercedes' absurdly photogenic, long-nosed newcomer gets A's in other critical sports-car exams, too-from acceleration to clock-ticking laps at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca. But the shift-and-brake world is only concerned with one question: Is this German freshman really in the same league as the classic Porsche 911?

In truth, it's a trick question. As only the second car fully designed by AMG, Mercedes' performance division, this upstart can't simply wax away five decades of Porsche glory. Still, that hasn't stopped Mercedes from painting a bull's-eye on the 911. The first salvo was

the GT S's departing predecessor, the 583-horsepower, roughly ₹1.3-crore SLS AMG, a legitimate, surprisingly hard-core supercar. Consider the GTS a mildly scaleddown, more earthbound and affordable version. It shares the basic aluminium space frame but loses the bravura gull-wing doors and surfboard-length hood.

Still, the GT S is one sleek sports car, with a three-pointed star on its suggestive snout, sprawling hips, and a roof that evokes classic SLs of the '50s and '60s. Viewed from the rear, it recalls an '80s Porsche 928-risky business, but it works.

The GT S we're hustling down Highway 1 to Monterey starts at about ₹81 lakh. It goes on sale in April. Next spring, a roughly ₹69 lakh, 462-horsepower GT will grace the pavement.

Both share a front-mounted, 4.0-litre bi-turbo V-8, with the GT S boosted to 510 horsepower.

developing some

in-house, including

even with 24 models

engine" motto remains

assembled by a single

signature is engraved

on tap by 2016, the

"One man, one

sacrosanct: AMG

engines are hand-

technician whose

into each plate.

the AMG GT. Yet

models entirely

That power courses through a snappy dual-clutch, seven-speed transmission. Every element of the car's personality-steering, throttle, suspension, transmission, the throaty exhaust-can be adjusted for any type of pavement assault.

Shoving that V-8 entirely behind the front axle does wonders for balance, but it forces a bulging, space-stealing centre console inside. The dashboard is lavish: Stitched leather, frosted with bull's-eye vents and a tablet-like screen. But the shifter sits awkwardly near your right elbow, surrounded by a hectic array of dials. Footwells are tight, there's no backseat, and a gun-slit windshield narrows the view. The effect is like being zipped into a zentai suit and booted onto the runway.

Yet if the cockpit recalls a designer barrel, then the performance is a daredevil ride over Niagara-or the Corkscrew, the half-blind plunge at Laguna Seca. Steering is spot-on and lively, handling limits are high, and optional carbon ceramic brakes halt from epic speeds with no fade.

On public roads, the Mercedes casts the same performance spell, the culmination of AMG's wizardly engineering and growing confidence in its powers. Coursing down Skyline Boulevard on the spine of the Santa Cruz mountains, the car slingshots from corner to corner with howling arrogance.

So here's your answer: Twenty years ago, no one could have imagined that conservative Mercedes would ever deliver such a race-bred two-seater. But the AMG GT S, even with a few minor missteps, proves this: The company might not directly outdo Porsche, but it knows how to build a bulldog capable of sinking its teeth into the hindquarters of the 911 and never letting go.

KNOWING

MERCEDES' **PERFORMANCE** DIVISION IS QUICKLY **BECOMING** THE FACE OF FAST. **BUT SPEED IS** NOTHING NFW TO THE BRAND.

The letters stand for Aufrecht, Melcher, and Grossaspach, the A and M for the names of its founding engineers and the G for Melcher's German hometown. More simply, AMG translates to speed: Born in 1967 in an old mill in Burgstall, AMG developed racing engines for Mercedes. Roomier digs in Affalterbach saw AMG deliver race winners and street assassins, including

"the Hammer," a 300E AMG 5.6 that reached nearly 300 kmph-unheard of for a sedan in 1986. Now fully absorbed as Mercedes' performance division, AMG is going gangbusters, selling more than 40,000 badged models in 2014. It's currently

A STRIKING AMG Behold the Hammer, AMG's 300-kmph sedan. Strange times, those '80s.





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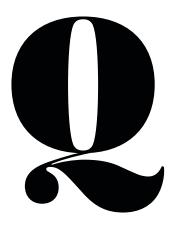
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RUSSELL PETERS

THE COMIC
HEAVYWEIGHT
IS BACK ON
TOUR AND HE'S
HEADED TO A
CITY NEAR
YOU...QUICK,
RUN FOR COVER!

by MEHER BAJWA



Recognisable for his freakishly accurate parody accents and epic punch line: 'Somebody gonna get a hurt, real bad,' Russell Peters has arrived-with an arsenal of laugh-out-loud jokes to boot. After countless sold-out shows and TV gigs, the Indian-origin, Canadian comic is all set to break more records on the funnies scale with his Almost Famous World Tour. Most of his routines focus on cultural and racial stereotypes, and just a few subjects are taboo for this Forbes list topper. Basically, Russell isn't the guy to rip off a Band-Aid gently. If you want to experience it first-hand, he's making a stop in India (Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Chennai) as part of Only Much Louder's new festival, Stage 42.

So, what's this new tour about? ...Jokes? Humour? Laughter?

Clever packaging! You've set records around the world for the largest sales and attendance. How did you do it? I have no idea really. I never expect it and don't take the fans for granted. I've been very lucky.

You were close to your father. How important has that relationship been for your career?

Very important. He was very funny and appreciated good comedy long before I ever started doing it.

Your memoir *Call Me Russell* did well. Do you think you'll write another book soon? I have some ideas that I'm kicking around, so maybe.

Does the constant touring and being in a different city every day get to you?

I love being on tour. The hardest part is being away from my daughter. I miss her like crazy when I'm on tour.

What was it like being on the other side of the table, judging *Last Comic Standing?*

It was a great experience, but it's really hard to be a working comic, judging other working comics. I know how hard it is for them to be up there.

Forbes ranked you at number 3 in the list of 10 highest grossing comics in the world in 2013. What are you doing with all that money?

Drugs, hookers, and orgies!

And how do you draw the line between what's really funny and what's 'too far'?

'Too far' are jokes about tragedies or really sad events. That being said, comedians do make jokes about that stuff when we all get together, we just won't do it on-stage. It's too dark.

You've done films, TV, live shows, and books—what's next?

Who knows? The thing about this business is that you never know what's next. You just have to be ready for it.

Did you have a slew of weird day jobs before you made it 'big'?

I did everything from selling socks door-todoor in office buildings, to working in a printing press, to selling shoes. You do what you have to do to survive as long as it still lets you do comedy whenever you can.

Any plans of slowing down to just relax, and maybe enjoy a Mai Tai in Hawaii?

I've been to Hawaii a few times and really enjoyed it, but taking vacations doesn't really appeal to me. I get bored. Plus, I'm on tour all the time so I really just like to hang out at home when I'm not on the road.

How have you evolved from the first time you did a stand-up show all those years ago?

I'd like to think I've gotten better at it. I was terrible when I first got on-stage 26 years ago. Comics are always evolving and changing. You have to. There's no finish line in this business and it's not a race. You just keep on going.

What's on the agenda for the next six months?

Touring, touring and more touring. I'll be on tour until 2016.

You have 7,16,000+ followers on social media—do you feel a sense of responsibility to them?

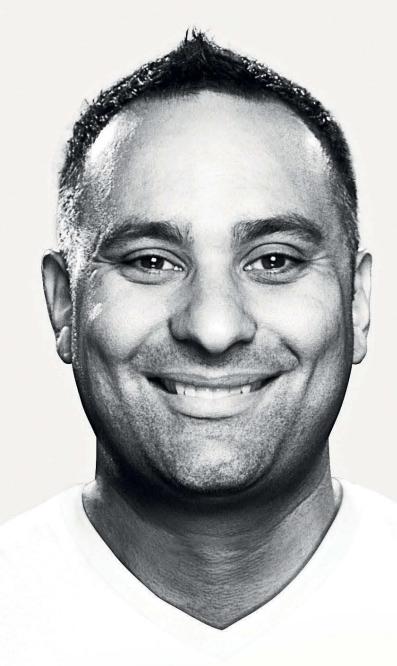
I kind of suck at social media. I don't really feel an obligation, to tell you the truth. It's not like they're paying for jokes or for me to perform. I feel a responsibility to the ticket-buying fans.

What's the most common thing you've noticed about your audience in India?

They're smart and get all the references. I don't have to dumb anything down or change the act from what I do in North America.

You're performing on February 14 in Delhi. Being Valentine's Day and all, will you be going easy on the couples in the audience or taking it up a notch?

Nope, everyone's part of the show. You never know who's going to be there or what they're going to say.



"COMICS ARE ALWAYS EVOLVING
AND CHANGING. YOU HAVE TO. THERE'S
NO FINISH LINE IN THIS BUSINESS AND
IT'S NOT A RACE."



ALMOST FAMOUS

ARENA cocktails

SPICE ROUTE

Looks like the cold weather gods aren't letting up. Our solution: Pull out an arsenal of hot flavours and create a delicious Bloody Mary... while pretending to be on a beach somewhere, of course.

Caution: Bloody Marys are not for the faint of heart. This zingy, pepper-laden cocktail will fire you up.

It's been christened the "world's most complex cocktail," but we're sure this dude-friendly version, courtesy of The Bar Stock Exchange, in Mumbai, can be made in under 60 seconds. PS: Just don't hold us to that claim.

THE "NEW" BLOODY MARY

In a cocktail shaker:

 Mix 60 ml vodka, 120 ml tomato juice, 3 tsp hot raddish sauce, 15 ml lime juice and a pinch of freshly crushed pepper.

In a narrow "beer mug lookalike":

- Rim the glass with celery salt.
- Pour contents of the shaker.
- Garnish with sliced lime, an olive and a celery stick.
 For seafood lovers, garnish with grilled shrimp satay—it's filling too!





TURTLE 亦

You are fast.

So fast that you stop for nothing.

You whiz past the world.

The sunsets, street musicians, a Monet, whipped cream cupcakes,

new bookstores, old friends, sandpipers on the beach, stand up comedians and empty highways.

Everything is a blur.

You are stuck in fast forward.

An ultimate rushaholic. Success seeker. Going through his motions.

Racing through life rather than actually living it.

And suddenly it's all over.

SLOW UP

Break away from the breakneck pace.

Uncomplicate. Untie. Unwind.

Find time to find yourself.

Breathe, don't just inhale. Feel, don't just touch.

Find, don't just look.

Live every second, don't just count them.

Stand in a rushing stream rather than rush hour traffic.

Give a genuine response rather than a quick answer.

Seek a real connection rather than a mere plug point.

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And you took nine months to come to being.

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"I SAT ACROSS
SHEILA DIKSHIT,
PRABHU
CHAWLA,
NANDAN
NILEKANI... I HAD
TO KNOW WHAT
I WAS TALKING
ABOUT, RIGHT?"

WE'VE WATCHED HER HOST KICK-ASS SHOWS

on MTV, Sony and scores of other channels over the last decade. More recently she was seen grilling politicians, industrialists and veteran opinionmakers on the hit talk show Dilli Dil Se. If you ask Mini, it was a big change from what she's been used to doing: "Twentyfive popular shows later I seem to have lost interest because Indian TV is in a rut and there's no premium on being an experienced and seasoned host. Dilli Dil Se put me to test in an extreme way. I sat across Sheila Dikshit, Prabhu Chawla, Nandan Nilekani, Vinod Dua, etc and did one-hour, in-depth interviews. I had to know what I was talking about, right?" 100 percent. Another thing Mini knows well is her drinks. "I'm a bit bi-polar when it comes to drinks even though I'm not much of a drinker.

At a relaxed formal soiree, I'd choose a red wine. At an action-packed evening with friends I knock down Patrón Cáfe shots. At a beach or pool, I prefer Malibu with coconut water and a dash of pineapple juice. Oh, and I *never* drink alone!"

But she might consider getting a drink with you if you order the sexiest drink on the menu. "A bourbon, or a smoky single malt." Mini is also a big travel geek. "I live to travel. I make money only so I can keep hopping all over the globe," she laughs. Besides travelling through Spain, Turkey, the Philippines and Australia, Mini is busy writing a script and finishing a course in cinematography. We're happy to announce that you can expect to see a lot more as she moves towards her exciting directorial debut.



One small change. Level up your comfort!



CONTIMAXCONTACT 5







THE FUNNYMAN

AMIT TANDON

MY WIFE COMPLAINS SHE DOESN'T HAVE time, and then she spends 15 minutes choosing what smiley to send on WhatsApp.

My fitness level: Every time I hold a racquet, I start looking around for mosquitoes.

Installed a television in bedroom. We now live in one BHK.

Facebook is also known as a home delivery service for stalkers.

Some optimists are ordering two copies of Chetan Bhagat's *Half Girlfriend*.

Arnab talks so much that when he is trying to make a point, he ends up making a circle instead.

Some things are better left untouched, e.g. your parents' WhatsApp groups.

Thanks to my kids, if robbers ever visit my house, they'll backtrack, assuming it's already been ransacked.

Farts are the swear words of body language. They sound unpleasant, you get judged, but you feel better after letting one out.

AUTOPORN

The Off-Road Race Car We Want

ARIEL MOTOR COMPANY'S
NOMAD IS FOR WHEN
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welded structure as the Ariel Atom, the Nomad incorporates serious off-road features like long-travel suspension, polyethylene bodywork and serious mudguards. A



235-horsepower version of the 2.4-litre VTEC four-cylinder Honda engine found in the Atom provides more than enough power for egregious slides and Scandinavian flicks. A six-speed manual keeps things nice and mechanical and simple. For under ₹29 lakh, the Ariel Nomad is a spare and beautiful racing buggy with a Ferrari's speed and better approach and departure angles than a Land Rover Defender. And it's the bestlooking car we've seen in a while. This is one nomad you're going to want to keep around. -Ben Keeshin

BEAT THIS CAPTION

"Oye! That's My Pint of Beer, Ye Old Geezer...And That Side of Carrots Too."



What? Back in 1937, Jack Fowler, a coal merchant in Bedford, England, would regularly bring his horse, Sam, into the public bar of the Balloon Inn for a beer and a game of dominoes with the lads.

PIT YOUR WITS Send your caption to maxim@emmindia.com with Beat This Caption {Month} in the subject line. The first reader to beat us gets a one-year subscription to Maxim.



JANUARY 2015 WINNER

"I'm great at stress massages." "Cool! Let me ask these guys for some oil."

CHETAN P. Chennai

ASK MAXIM

Which Oscar-nominated films are really worth watching?

Well, all of them! But if you don't have the luxury of time, here's our pick of the eight that deserve a block of your time for their touching storylines, phenomenal directing, strong acting prowess, grand cinematography and everything in between. P.S.: They're all based on real-life events.



BOYHOOD

Director: Richard Linklater
Starring: Ellar Coltrane, Ethan Hawke
Plot: Easily one of the most anticipated films of the
year, this coming-of-age drama was filmed in real
time over 13 years, starring the same young man,
Ellar Coltrane, as Mason from age five to age 18.



WILD

Director: Jean-Marc Vallée Starring: Reese Witherspoon, Laura Dern Plot: Cheryl Strayed embarked on a 1,770-km solo hike after suffering from several catastrophes in her life. This film chronicles her journey of self-recovery and self-discovery.



UNBROKEN

Director: Angelina Jolie
Starring: Jake O'Connell, Takamasa Ishihara
Plot: The story of Olympian Louis Zamperini who
spent a harrowing 47 days on a raft after a near-fatal
plane crash in WWII, and was then captured by the
Japanese navy and sent to a POW camp till 1945.



THE IMITATION GAME

Director: Morten Tyldum
Starring: Benedict Cumberbatch, Keira Knightley
Plot: Mathematician Alan Turing was enlisted to
crack the German enigma code with the help of
fellow mathematicians during WWII. Their success
story remained an MI6 secret for years to come.



THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING

Director: James Marsh
Starring: Eddie Redmayne, Felicity Jones
Plot: This one's guaranteed to give you a dose of
emotion as Marsh tells the story of the delicate and
deep relationship between famous physicist Stephen
Hawking and his wife, Jane.



FOXCATCHER

Director: Bennett Miller Starring: Steve Carell, Channing Tatum, Mark Ruffalo Plot: Olympic champions, the Schulz brothers join Team Foxcatcher led by multimillionaire sponsor John E. du Pont as they train for the '88 games in Seoul.



AMERICAN SNIPER

Director: Clint Eastwood
Starring: Bradley Cooper, Sienna Miller
Plot: Based on Navy SEAL sniper Chris Kyle's
memoir as he became the most feared sharpshooter
in US history and a controversial legend in the military.



SELMA

Director: Ava DuVernay Starring: David Oyelowo, Carmen Ejogo, Tim Roth Plot: Selma chronicles Martin Luther King's campaign to secure equal voting rights during his memorable march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1965.







Rule The Night



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- 7. Timex Expedition Shock Combo ₹5,995
- 8. Jaeger-LeCoultre Deep Sea collection (p.o.r.)
 9. Breitling Chronomat 44 Raven ₹6,57,850











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For centuries, Creed has been a go-to for manly men of great stature, including Churchill and JFK.
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A stout mix of leather, citrus, and tobacco, this elegant yet masculine fougère smells like success without being flashy.
₹20,000 for 120 ml; creedboutique.com

Bold-o-meter:

D.S. & DURGA, BURNING BARBERSHOP

This small-batch fragrance is exactly what it advertises itself to be: An olfactory replica of shaving tonics salvaged from a burned-down barbershop. A mélange of charred spearmint, lime, vanilla, and lavender creates a scent that is smoky, bold, and totally unique. Just like you! ₹6,500 for 50 ml;

dsanddurga.com

Bold-o-meter:

3 CALVIN KLEIN, ETERNITY

Simple and always popular with the ladies, Calvin Klein's iconic fougère has a fresh, just-out-of-the-shower scent that makes it an easy choice for a day at the office or a casual night out on the town. ₹3,200 for 100 ml; calvinklein.com

Bold-o-meter:

4 NAUTICA, NAUTICA LIFE

This new scent fuses bracing oceanic aromas with a blend of sage, violet, and lavender. Result: A fragrance that's fresh and effortless—ideal for guys looking to add a little flavour to their routine without making too much of a splash. ₹3,800 for 100 ml; nautica.com

Bold-o-meter:

5 DOLCE & GABBANA, POUR HOMME

As one would expect, D&G's take on the fougère was created with sex on the brain. Soft and citrus-laced, this olfactory ode to the Mediterranean pairs well with a slick suit or a steamy late-night rendezvous. ₹5,000 for 125 ml; dolcegabbana.com

Bold-o-meter:

THE BOLD STANDARD

When suiting up for a big night out, steer clear of delicate fragrances and opt for one of these sharp, woodsy, and distinctly masculine fougère colognes.

by ADAM LINEHAN



FRENCH CONNECTION

BACK WHEN THEY WERE INVENTED (IN 1882!), FOUGÈRE (MEANING "FERNLIKE") FRAGRANCES WERE AMONG THE FIRST NOT INTENDED TO REPLICATE A NATURALLY OCCURRING ODOUR. IN OTHER WORDS, GUYS NO LONGER HAD TO WALK AROUND SMELLING LIKE ROSES OR A BUNCH OF CLOVES. TODAY, THE CATEGORY IS PRIMARILY DEFINED BY NOTES OF OAKMOSS AND TONKA BEAN, WHICH COMBINE FOR BOLD, WOODSY SCENTS TYPICALLY ASSOCIATED WITH HONEST-TO-GOD MASCULINITY.





Introducing Cappuccino Flavored Condoms From KamaSutra.





Graming Guide



PART S - MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR MUG

Give your grooming regimen a boost with this forehead-to-chin guide.

HYDRATE YOUR SKIN, STAT

A decent moisturiser is your first line of defence against dry, chapped skin and, eventually, wrinkles. You should not wait till your late 40s to worry about those buggers, work on them now.

We like the Pond's Men Energy Charge Brightening Gel Moisturiser because it gets absorbed quickly and doesn't leave you looking like you bathed in baby oil. Its size makes it an easy travel buddy.

THERE IS SUCH A THING AS TOO MUCH SHINE

Does your forehead start reflecting light around midday? Skip tissue paper and kitchen towelettes, and use an oil control serum to mop up all the shine. How they work: They turn shiny skin into matte in the reflective regions of your face like your forehead, nose and chin. This is a product you should keep with you at all times. You could also use the Pond's Men Oil Control Fairness Moisturiser for an instant effect.

BREAKOUT BAD DAYS

We're all prone to zits, no matter how old we get. The occasional zit is usually caused by sweat, your genes, or even dietary supplements like dairy and sugar. What you need to combat this is an oil-free, two percent salicyclic acid spot treatment. Use this overnight for the best results. If that doesn't work, then give your dermat a quick visit for a shot of cortisone.

MASK UP: ONCE A WEEK

Think of it as your weekend indulgence. A face mask will work wonders in relaxing your skin (and you) while you catch up on *True Detective* re—runs. What it does: A good face mask will help reduce blackheads, remove blotchiness and erase all manner of bumps and spots. It'll open up your pores and act like a detox for your stressed—out skin cells.



What wakes you up every morning?

It's your daily cup of coffee.
A strong dose of your favourite
morning drink wakes up your body
and mind, giving you an added burst
of energy to charge up your day.
But did you know that coffee
is really rich in antioxidants too.





A shot of coffee to boost your skin.

A good face wash that can refresh my face instantly is almost indispensable for me. I love this new range because they are an effective and no-fuss solution to my skin needs.

-Varun Dhawan, Actor

So you know that coffee is good for you. But here's a secret you probably didn't know.

Coffee is good for your skin too.

Yes, it is! It is actually one of the oldest natural solutions for healthy skin. Coffee is a natural antioxidant, which means that it is known to rejuvenate the skin cells, making your face bright and energized instantly. It is also known to enhance blood circulation in skin, to give your face a natural, healthy glow.

Also, it is known to have natural sunblock properties to protect your skin from damage caused by harmful UV rays. Coffee can do all this and more. No wonder coffee bean scrubs and beauty treatments are gaining popularity across the world.

So why not have a coffee shot for your face too?

Presenting

New Pond's Men Energy Charge Face Wash -

Face Ka Charger.

Formulated with energizing coffee bean extracts, it not only cleanses the skin, but also brightens and re-energizes to give the face an instant and energized glow so that your Face ki Battery is recharged.





1 THE RIGHT HOOK

"I always hang my jeans by the belt loop. I never fold them. I don't like folded jeans because you'll find a crease down the side. So always have lots of hooks around, whether they're on the back of the bedroom door or in your closets. And I don't wash my jeans much; I want to keep the colour. I'll tumble dry them if I want to get them a little skinnier if they've loosened up in fit. But my major thing is: Hang your jeans after you've worn them all day."

WATCH AND LEARN

"I have a collection of Rolex Oysters, all from 1965, the year I was born. I have a silver face, a navy blue face, a black face, a gold one. Basically, I switch them out constantly. I wear my silver one more in the summer. When I'm wearing a dark denim and black and navy, I wear my navy face. For evening I'll wear my all-black Rolex face, I change my watch to match my outfit."

3 HELL FOR LEATHER

"Leather is still playing huge in everybody's wardrobe. It's a go-to piece, after the blazer, whether it's a leather bomber jacket with a baseball or varsity collar, or it's punky and biker-y and has more of an edge, or if a guy just wants a simple leather zip-up thing. Leather is a pretty essential part of a man's wardrobe and will continue to be. There's a sexiness and a rebelliousness to leather that I've always loved."

4 CALVIN'S CUTIES

"I've worked with all of Calvin Klein's models, from Kate Moss, who's so sexy and has that great London street style, to Lara Stone, who's so hot—her body is so curvaceous. Christy Turlington [pictured above] in our recent underwear campaign,
Natalia Vodianova—
all the CK women are
sexy, confident, hot,
and you'd be so
happy to have any of
them on your arm as
a date. I can't pick
just one."

5 DEAN'S LIST "My style icon is

definitely James
Dean. I love those
early pictures of
him in New York
City, off duty, going
to acting classes.
They're black-andwhite. He's wearing
a black cashmere
topcoat; he's got his
horn-rimmed eyewear on and his dark
denim jeans. He
always had that sense
of effortless style."

6 TOUGH BOOTS

"There's more of a tough-boot attitude happening now. We've done this lace-up, mountaineering-inspired, outdoorsy style. We've also done a lace-up boot with a buckle around the ankle in a washed deerskin. It's not so much like a clean, Beatles' 60s boot; it's a lug sole, definitely way more rugged."

JACKET REQUIRED

"A beautiful tailored jacket always elevates a man. It gives you presence. It starts from the shoulders down. The first thing you should look at when you put on the jacket is the height of the shoulder

pad. At the moment, it's getting more natural; there's a softening around the shoulder. Guys are working out and going to the gym, playing sports, so to me, a natural yet defined shoulder starts everything."

8 RAW POWER

"What's great about Calvin Klein is we do jeans you can wear seven days a week. We stand for the clean, pure, elevated, dressy jean. I love raw denim. I think fit is important, but I don't like overly skinny jeans. I think that kind of legging jeans on a guy is over. I'm really into a nice raw, indigo, straight-cut jean that's devoid of detailing. That's what makes denim cool."





THE CIRCUIT IS THREE
FIVE-MINUTE ROUNDS OF
10 EXERCISES, DONE FOR
30 SECONDS (OR DO FIVE
TWICE EACH), WITH A
MINUTE'S BREAK
BETWEEN SETS. TRY IT TWO
OR THREE TIMES A WEEK.



MEDICINE BALL TOSS

Stand perpendicular to a brick wall, five feet away. Hold ball in front of you, twist and throw it at wall, catch it, turn back, repeat.

PUNCH A HEAVY BAG

With a vigorous series of lefts and rights.

KICK A HEAVY BAG

Stand perpendicular to the bag. Step toward the bag with your front foot, wheel, and kick with the extended back foot, making contact with the front of your foot and shin. Alternate five per side for even leg strength.

LINE TOUCHES

Do a 20-metre sprint, touch the ground, return to start, repeat.

SKIP ROPE

Aim for 90 skips. Put hair in pigtails for extra effect.

LUNGES

From standing position, holding dumbbells, step forward and also touch back knee to the ground; alternate legs.

NEVER FORGET LEG DAY

Sports trainer Todd Norman, who trained legendary UFC champ Anderson Silva, gets you into Spartan-fighting shape for summer, with time to spare! This MMA-style circuit workout wins major muscle points.

GROUND AND POUND

Lay a boxing heavy bag on the ground and beat the shit out of it with your hands and feet; it'll toughen you up and improve your endurance.

BOX JUMPS

Jump up repeatedly to a one- to two-foot-high step.

BURPEES

From a standing position, drop into a squat, then fall into a push-up position, then go back to the squat and leap up in the air.





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AGENDA

MAN WITH A PLAN

THE (VERY) BEST COUPLES' RETREATS IN INDIA

Your partner and you probably need an escape, from prying eyes and city limits. We've got you covered—here's a list of 10 stunning destinations that make for that perfect getaway.

BY PREETI VERMA LAL

Located 1,839 metres above sea level, Coonoor is a birdwatcher's paradise and the base for trekking expeditions into the Nilgiris.

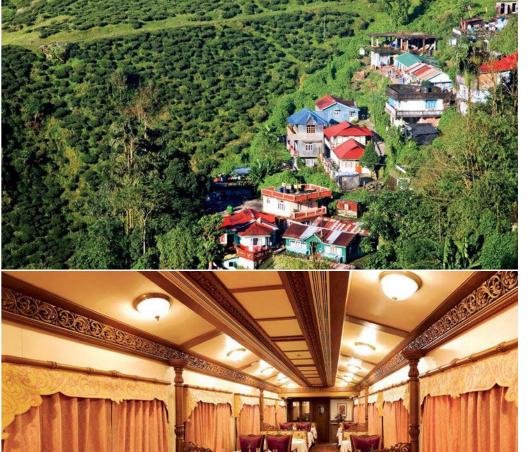






February is here and it's brought with it splendid weather, a vacation itch and a day dedicated to expressing love. Perfect timing to take that weekend break you've been planning forever. Better yet, make it a romantic one—your SO will express her gratitude in multiple ways. Googling 'romantic getaways' won't get you very far though, the list of mundane options is endless. Which is why we've curated the best of the bunch for your exclusive travelling pleasure. Take your pick from pristine beaches, tropical islands, hill stations, mountains and the backwaters.

PS: You can start calling us your new travel agent. No commission necessary.



TO THE LIVING ROOT
BRIDGES NEAR
CHERRAPUNJEE. THE
BRIDGES ARE MADE
OF LIVING ROOTS OF
THE FICUS TREE, SOME
MORE THAN 100
YEARS OLD.

LIVING ROOT BRIDGES Meghalaya

It's an unusual trek to the living root bridges near Cherrapunjee. The bridges are made of living roots of the ficus tree, some more than 100 years old. The best way to do this is to check into Cherrapunjee Holiday Resort the night before the actual trek. Wear comfortable shoes. Carry food, water, Band-Aid strips and muscle relaxants. It's just a two-km trek but the incline is steep, so you might have to stop to catch your breath. You probably won't find the bridges on your own so don't be too adventurous. Take a guide (the resort can get you one). Start early so that you have enough time to take a dip in the gurgling river. Return early and sit in the resort's garden, sip hot tea and watch ribbons of mist in the green valley.

Romance Quotient The incline is steep, the jungle dense, the experience priceless.

Do Together Wear helmets and explore Mawsmai cave, the only lit cave in Meghalaya. During the rains, the cave gets slippery—another reason to hold on to each other.

GOLDEN CHARIOT LUXURY TRAIN

Departs from Bengaluru

The Golden Chariot is a misnomer-it isn't a chariot pulled by white stallions. But it is a super luxurious eight-days-seven-nights train journey that begins in Bengaluru and cuts through the belly of Karnataka to conclude with a sunset in Goa. Each day a new city, each evening a night on the train. A personal butler, downy duvets, luxury coaches for sight-seeing, sumptuous food, a spa to slough off everyday grime, a gym to rout the calories, that fibre optic cable to stay connected with the world-this is one train you want to chug along on forever. Journey through Bengaluru, Kabini, Mysore, Hassan, Hampi, Badami, Goa and return to Bengaluru.

Romance Quotient Pretty high. Find love and comfort in cosy luxury.

Do Together In the Kabini Jungle Lodge, light a bonfire and let the wind sing for you.

SKYWALTZ IN A HOT AIR BALLOON

Lonavala, Maharashtra
Picture this. At 4 am, you rub the sleep out

of your eyes, drive 30 minutes along the Old Lonavala road and stop at a barren patch of land. Sip hot tea while the 6,500-metre Skywaltz balloon gets inflated in the shadow of the Sahyadri mountain range. When the pilot instructs you, hop into the gondola. You are not harnessed. You stand in the gondola and the hot air balloon gently attains height and starts sailing over the hill station of Lonavala. As you rise higher, the balloon, which runs on LPG, hits a speed of 70 kmph. Do not worry. There is no bump, no traffic snarl, just the hiss of the LPG cylinders that are stacked by your feet. Landing can be tricky, so pay attention to the instructions of the pilot. The fun is in not knowing where exactly you'll land. The wind could take you far away.

Romance Quotient Sail high up amidst the clouds and look down at the world below hand-in-hand.

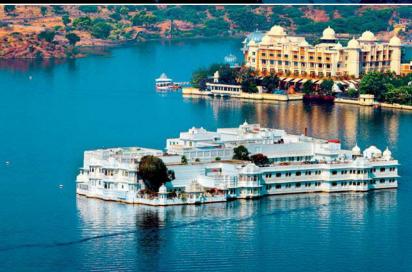
Do Together Take selfies with Michael Jackson and Angelina Jolie at the Celebrity Wax Museum. Too cheesy? Spend the evening at Tiger Point; it is crowded with couples but you'll find a rock to lean on.

AGENDA romantic hotspots

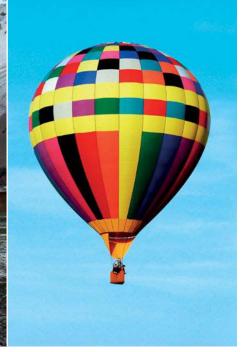
CLOCKWISE FROM TOPA view of Nanda Devi peak from Auli; Taj Lake Palace, Udaipur; hot air balloon ride over Lonavala in Maharashtra; camping in Leh; a house in Puducherry, reminiscent of the French architectural style











IN PUDUCHERRY, THE SAND IS SILKEN, THE FOOD FRENCH AND ORGANIC, THE STREETS CLEAN, AND THE GARDENS LUSH.

KURSEONG West Bengal

A tiny hill station that sits by its more famous neighbour, Darjeeling, it takes its name from a white orchid and looks like an extended tea garden. In Kurseong, catch a glimpse of the snow-bathed Kanchenjunga; sip 100 different tea blends in Cochrane Place, a boutique hotel; say a prayer at Kunsanum Doling Buddhist monastery; get suffused with the scent of fresh organic tea in Ambootia, that hand-rolls tea for Harrods; buy tamarind toffee in the local bazaar; huff a bit on St Mary's Trail; and book a seat on the famous Darjeeling Himalayan Railway-the tiny blue train that hisses between Darjeeling and Siliguri on a narrow gauge track that is barely two feet wide.

Romance Quotient Romance the old world way in the toy train.

Do Together In Cochrane Place, take teablending lessons. Pick your favourite flavours and blend tea for each other. The hotel's master tea blender can teach you the howtos—he's an expert in 100 different blends!

PUDUCHERRY

If cities could vie for the 'most spiritual' tag, Puducherry would probably win it hands down. In this typically French city, spirituality wafts in the air; so does French nostalgia in the mustard yellow buildings and robin egg-blue churches (Puducherry is said to house the most over-the-top cathedrals in India!). The sand is silken, the food French and organic, the streets clean, and the gardens lush. The city seems to subsist on an ancient charm that is fast disappearing from every other city-big or small. Of course, no mention of Puducherry is complete without a mention of the Auroville Ashram. An interesting detour would be a tour of the Sri Aurobindo handmade paper factory. Romance Quotient Bond spiritually here.

There's tranquility in the air in Puducherry. **Do Together** Get a couple massage in the Ayurveda Holistic Healing Centre.

COONOOR Tamil Nadu

Step away from your concrete jungle and head to Coonoor, the second largest hill station in the Nilgiris after Ooty. Located 1,839 metres above sea level, Coonoor is surrounded by tea plantations and has pleasant weather throughout the year. It is a birdwatcher's paradise and the base for trekking expeditions into the Nilgiris. Mustdos include a walk in Sim's Park and a visit to Dolphin Nose. It also falls on the famous Nilgiri Mountain Railway (NMR), the metregauge railway line between Mettupalayam (28 km) and Ooty (17 km).

Romance Quotient Quiet, verdant and with beautiful weather.

Do Together Lace up your sneakers, strap on a backpack and trek to Lamb's Rock (9 km) for a spectacular view of the tea/coffee plantations.

MINICOY Lakshadweep

Minicoy is so small that you can actually hold hands and walk the entire island, which is 4.8 km long. Smack in the middle of a mighty ocean, this southernmost atoll of Lakshadweep is not a destination with a huge to-do list—Minicoy is a to-be place. Just watch time go by. But do go to see the 300-foot lighthouse and the Juma Masjid which has a collection of rare artifacts. The water is so clear that if you scuba dive 10 m, you can see marine life in natural light.

Romance Quotient Dip your toes in turquoise water and forget everything else. Do Together Take the glass-bottomed boat into the middle of the ocean and spend hours away from everyone and everything.

AULI Uttarakhand

At 9,000 feet, Auli, a hamlet in Uttarakhand, offers a breathtaking 180-degree view of Himalayan peaks—Nanda Devi, Chaukhamba and Panchachuli—and has skiing slopes on which to slalom or dart downhill. The fourkm ropeway is the second largest in Asia. Ask those who have held their breaths and sat tight in the cable car and they will tell you how wonderful it is to ride with clouds, and feel the Himalayan peaks just a snowball throw away. The biggest attraction is a threekm slope ranging from 3,049 m to 2,519 m in height that offers pistes suitable for both novices and proficient skiers.

Romance Quotient A bonfire amidst ribbons of mist and snow-capped mountains. **Do Together** If both of you are proficient

skiers, hurtle down the slopes together. If you know nothing about skiing, get your first skiing lesson in Auli. There's romance in learning a new thing together.

ROAD TRIP INTO LEH Jammu & Kashmir Whoever first said travel is not about the destination but about the journey itself must surely have done the road trip to Leh, the second largest district in India. But before the journey, you need to pack well. Check the weather also. Carry a tent just in case you want to sleep under the stars in the middle of nowhere. Do not forget some canned/dry food, rain ponchos and chill-cheaters. Keep some cash handy. You might not find ATMs when you need them. And, most important, shed the fear. Take in the jaw-dropping stunning landscape-the freezing rivers, wild flowers and snow-topped mountains. This road trip is not about sight-seeing, it is the ride of a lifetime.

Romance Quotient Sleep under the sky with no one around for miles.

Do Together In Spituk Gompa, turn the prayer wheels together. They say the harmonious sound helps people bond.

UDAIPUR Rajasthan

In Udaipur, the Lake City, you won't not know where to begin. There's so much to do and see. The lakes that lend the city its charm, palaces that shimmer at night, the whiff of sumptuous food, the colours of the Pichwai paintings, the dainty *mojris*, the vibrant tie-and-dye art, the *Saheliyon Ki Bari* at Fateh Sagar Lake, the Jagdish Temple, famed for its Indo-Aryan architecture. And, of course, a boat ride on the lake. In Udaipur, the ancient meets the modern and you will not mind getting lost in the waif-thin lanes of a city that stretches just about 6 km.

Romance Quotient In the old city, love lives on the lake.

Do Together Enjoy a candlelight dinner in the middle of the lake (The Leela arranges this). ■



THE SECRET LIFE OF JIMMY PAGE

Can rock's greatest guitarist come to grips with his past and move into the future?

by DORIAN LYNSKEY

IF YOU'RE CURIOUS ABOUT THE INNER LIFE of Jimmy Page, guitarist, producer, rock god, and mastermind of Led Zeppelin for 12 extraordinary years, you'll come away from his new autobiography none the wiser. Heavy enough to kill a man, the accurately titled, 512-page *Jimmy Page* is a lavish collection of photographs accompanied by terse, affectless captions. You'll learn that he played a lot of shows and met many interesting people, but if he has any dreams, disappointments, or insights, he doesn't mention them.

Page says he might write a proper memoir one day, but there's a catch. "All these Led Zeppelin books that come out, they're just a nuisance," he says. Page might be thinking of *Hammer of the Gods: The Led Zeppelin Saga*, a 1985 best-seller that set the standard for documenting the debauched lives of rock stars. "They're untrue, as well. So sure, I'd like to write my story, but it would come out posthumously. That way, I can tell exactly what went on, without any lawyers coming at me. And also, I wouldn't have to promote it."

He laughs. To be polite, so do I. We're both laughing about how much he hates writers.

Page dresses like a feared Hogwarts tutorblack jacket, black trousers, black scarf-and speaks like a venerable gangster. His charm is like a Communion wafer: It's ultrathin, and melts away in seconds. After every question, he narrows his eyes, sensing a trap. When we finish talking, he smirks and says, "See, you can't catch me at it, can you?"-and "it" seems to be any examination whatsoever of his inner life. He has an old grudge against journalists, starting with Rolling Stone's reviews of Zeppelin, which bordered on verbal abuse, calling the songs "weak" and the production "monotonous," and comparing Zep unfavourably to Robin Trower (in retrospect, a laughable judgement). On tour in 1977, the group's publicist informed reporters, "The band does not like the press, and does not trust them."

We're facing each other in the drawing room of a London hotel. It's the essence of slightly musty English grandeur, lined with leather-bound books and portraits of such worthies as King Edward VII. At 70, Page is rock royalty and, like Queen Elizabeth and her family, his duties are largely ceremonial, dedicated to the preservation of tradition.

In recent years, he has been a diligent historian, remastering the Zeppelin catalogue, dusting off unreleased solo material for his website, and compiling photos. All this, he says, is so he can clear the decks and move on to something new.

Some people will tell you that Led Zeppelin was the greatest rock'n'roll band of all time. Jimmy Page would agree with them.

"I don't want to be disrespectful to other bands, but it's quite clear it was head and shoulders above everything else," he says. "It was meant to change things as they were, and it really, really did. As each album was coming out, people were waiting to see—what would Led Zeppelin do next?"

He talks about Zeppelin like it's an ex-wife he can't forget. It was *his* band. He recruited the crack squad of idiosyncratic virtuosos—singer Robert Plant, drummer John Bonham, bassist John Paul Jones—and laid out the Big Idea: A maniacal explosion of blues-rock. He had honed this notion as a prolific session musician and a member of the Yardbirds. "That wasn't my band. But when that folded, I formed a band I'd make sure was my own."

And it worked. The four men were so insanely, intimidatingly gifted that they seemed untouchable, like wizards or knights. Each of their nine albums was different, and never less than immense. Projecting power, sex, and mystery, they sounded like they both wanted the world and deserved it. And with worldwide sales of 300 million albums, they got it. Then, in 1980, John Bonham choked to death on his own vomit after a binge of epic partying. Led Zeppelin refused to continue without him.

If Page had his way, he'd be in Led Zeppelin right now. In 2007, the band reunited for a single London show, a tribute to beloved record mogul Ahmet Ertegun, with Jason Bonham picking up his father's sticks. Page expected more.

"It was intimated that we were going to do more, so that's what everybody thought," he says defensively. "There's three of us who probably would, but there's one who wouldn't, and after a while it gets really boring, that whole scenario."

I'd like to ask if he thinks Plant, who was fronting the tragically named Obs-Tweedle when Page plucked him from obscurity in 1968, owes him one. I'd like to know the current state of a vexed friendship Plant has compared to Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau's in *The Odd Couple*. But Page isn't having it.

"I can't be bothered with it," he says curtly.
"I don't want to do sound bites. I certainly
am not going to spin it or lie. So I'm just not
going to do it." His grin is like a slamming door.

"I DON'T WANT TO BE
DISRESPECTFUL TO
OTHER BANDS, BUT LED
ZEPPELIN WAS HEAD
AND SHOULDERS ABOVE
EVERYTHING ELSE."

"All right?"

All right. But put bluntly, Plant's post-Zeppelin career makes Page's look meagre and hesitant. The singer has released acclaimed solo albums in various idioms (2007's *Raising Sand*, with Alison Krauss, won five Grammys) while staying goodhumoured and wearing his past lightly.

Page, on the other hand, has seemed lost since Zeppelin went down. He made a solo album (1988's *Outrider*) and two records with Plant (at the singer's invitation) and appeared alongside the Edge and Jack White as a ponytailed Methuselah in the guitar documentary *It Might Get Loud*, while dabbling in things that were beneath him, including stodgy '80s wannabe supergroup The Firm and an awkward collaboration with Puff Daddy.

Still, he rejects the suggestion that he has frittered away 34 years. "There was a whole period when I could have been doing stuff, but nobody approached me. Maybe people thought I'd say no. It didn't matter. I was doing other things. I was raising children into the world. I was always doing something, but they didn't necessarily see the light of day. It didn't matter to me."

With an estimated fortune of more than \$120 million, Page hardly needs the work, but it seems wasteful for one of the greatest guitarists of all time to have played only one full show in the past decade. Perhaps he hears the clock ticking. A year ago, he wouldn't touch the guitar at all, but he says he's playing every day now, trying to get "match fit."

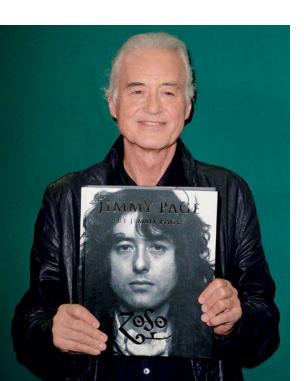
He's written new songs, but the lyrics are tricky because they tend to come out sarcastic. The plan is to play live next year, and he's confident he can sell out dates on the strength of his famous back catalogue alone. He plans to play classics like "Dazed and Confused" as instrumentals. "There's only two verses in it anyway." Will he hire a singer? He turns cagey again. "Even if I had the musicians right now, there's not a hope in hell I'd tell you. I don't want people to know what I'm doing next."

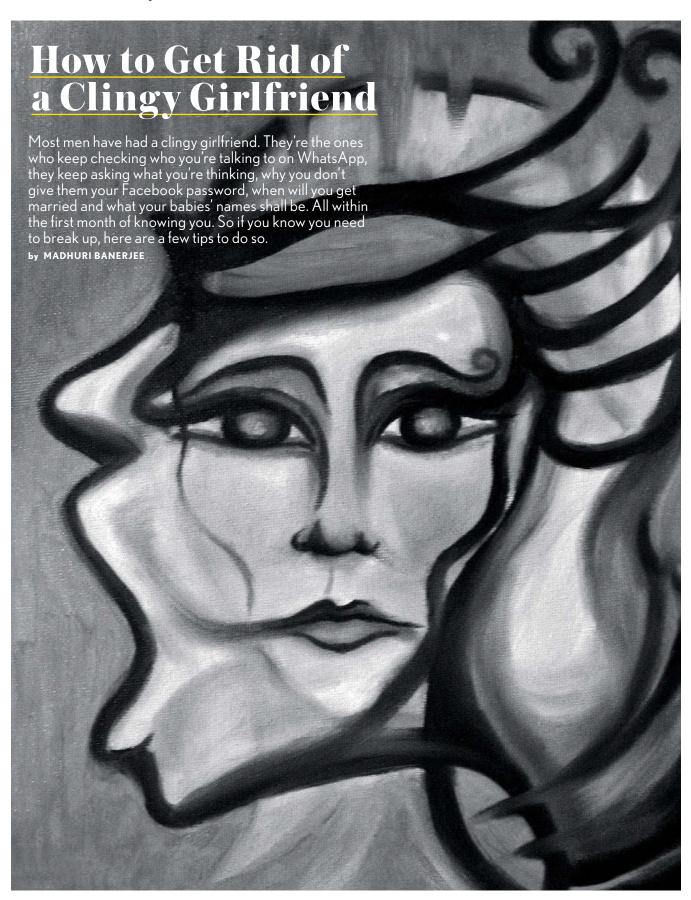
I ask if he ever dreams about Led Zeppelin. "No. Do you?" he shoots back.

No, I reply. But I wasn't in Led Zeppelin, and I haven't spent the past few years contemplating the band's accomplishments.

"Ah, I see." Page seems bothered by this image of him as a lonely old soldier, spending days interred in his past. "It might appear that I've immersed myself in the past, but actually what I've done is immerse myself in projects which needed to see the light of day."

Finally, it seems, Jimmy Page is ready to move on.





SHE'LL USE YOUR CORE VALUES AND DEMEAN YOU. DON'T FALL FOR IT. YOU MIGHT BE A GREAT GUY AND IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT YOU FELL IN LOVE WITH A CLINGY WOMAN. FOCUS ON HER AS THE PROBLEM AND NOT YOU.

Empty Threats

You can't say we need to break up and the next night sleep with your girlfriend. You can't give her mixed signals. Then they're just empty threats that are not going to make her go away at all. You need to say you don't think this relationship is working out and stick to it. Keep saying that you've broken up. Don't show emotion, don't care if she cries, don't say we'll figure it out. Clingy girlfriends will use all their power to keep you in their life. Understand she's first going to try to scare you, control you and then destroy you. You must stay strong!

Slob Attack

Women like changing and moulding men. They like to see a man well-groomed. So you need to do the opposite. You must not bathe, shave, wear deo or clean any part of your living area. Do not let her "mould" you. When you do bathe or shave, use all of her expensive bath products and make sure she realises they're over! Then leave your wet towel on the bed and leave the house.

Be Sickening!

You've been saving your sick leave for a sick day but here is a chance to actually stay at home and show what a pain in the house you can be. If you have a live-in girlfriend, get in the way of what she does at home and thoroughly enjoy yourself in your house. Fire the maid. Ask her to clean the dishes. Watch TV the entire day. Play on your X-Box. Talk to your female friends loudly so she can hear. Do it for a few days till she kicks you out. You must have told her you've broken up with her before you do this and maintain that you're single and she's still staying with you while you do this. Or you'll be in trouble!

Girlfriends' Disapproval

Once a woman has told her girlfriends about you and they approve, they will always keep pushing her to get back together with you. So you need to un-do this approval. You need to call her friends and start flirting with them. If you meet them you must try to ask them for a date, saying now that you've broken up with Ms. Clingy, you're free to

date her friends. If she is meeting her friends, you should go and barge in on their party and flirt with the friends, make lewd masochist remarks and pick up an order and leave. Let them pay your bill. Women hate that!

Family Circus

A clingy girlfriend is smart. She will use the help of your family to get your relationship back on track. If you don't want your mother, cousin or well-wishing relative to call and say what a beautiful `jodi' you two make, you need to let them in on it. Let your family know what she's been doing and why you need to break up. Otherwise they'll take her side. Ask them for their advice on how to break up. Once they feel they're helping you, no matter what she calls to tell them they'll not relent.

Off the Beaten Path

Sometimes you need to act strangely and pull away in different ways to make your girlfriend realise she's not important.

Become a "sadhu" for some time. Enrol in philosophical classes, take solo trips to ashrams, and wear loose fitting white clothing. Say phrases like there's only God in this world and I renounce myself to Him. I shall not have a family life anymore. If she asks what happens to her, you can reply you've found your true calling and it has nothing to do with this materialistic world. However, you still need to work to pay the bills.

Keep Proof

Clingy girlfriends can use every psychotic trick in the book to keep you in their life. From telling you they're pregnant with your child to cutting themselves and writing letters to you in their blood. Don't freak out. You must not feel guilty and never take the woman back. Instead, send her the names of some well-known psychiatrists and take all this proof to a police station to get a restraining order. Keep the police and your family involved and aware of her so that later it won't surprise you if she takes legal action.

Block, Delete

If you can't move cities to get away from her (because truly that's the best way), you need to change your passwords on your computer, laptop and any social media sites that she may have had access to. For God's sake, don't change it to her name or date of birth! Unfriend and remove the people common in your life if you have to. So they won't spy on you. Stop going to the same parties and the same events both of you hung out at. She'll be there, hoping to rekindle the romance. Change the locks if she was a live-in. Crash at a friend's place. Avoid her. Then delete her.

Relapse, Repeat

It's OK if you're single for some time. It's OK if you're lonely. You don't want to go back to the same person again or the same type of person. You need to also do some introspection or actually speak to a counsellor on why this relationship happened and how you don't make those choices again.

Stop Feeling Guilty

She might use phrases like, what would your friends think, is this how you treat women? Is this how you've been brought up? She'll use your core values and demean you. Don't fall for it. You might be a great guy and it's not your fault you fell in love with a clingy woman. Don't doubt yourself. Focus on her as the problem and not you.



Maxim's sex columnist, Madhuri Banerjee, is the author of five best-selling novels. Her latest book My Clingy Girlfriend, which is a funny take on modern relationships and bad bosses, is releasing this month and is also being made into a TV series. She is also the writer of Hate Story 2. She tackles all your love and lust head-busters every month. Need a (s)explanation? Write in at maxim@emmindia.com, with "Dear Madhuri" in the subject line.

THE FIVE BEST SECRET-SOCIETY SPY MOVIES THAT ARE TOTALLY LICENSED TO THRILL.

by BILGE EBIRI



In director Matthew Vaughn's new spy thriller, Kingsman: The Secret Service, a brilliant but rebellious punk (Taron Egerton) is whisked out of the slammer by a veteran spy (Colin Firth) and inducted into a powerful, way-secret organisation. Soon, he's up to his earbuds in save-the-world global espionage. Being a British superspy, he also learns how to dress well, shoot with sniper accuracy, and detonate explosives hidden in lighters. Sound familiar? Kingsman is just the latest in a long line of spy flicks about scary secret orgs and the innocents pulled into their webs-with no Q or Blofeld in sight. Here are the

best of the non-007.

licensed-to-kill bunch.



SECRET ORGThe 39 Steps, duh.

WHAT IS IT?

"An organisation of spies, collecting information on behalf of the foreign office of..." Bang! In Alfred Hitchcock's classic, based on a novel by John Buchan, a regular dude (Robert Donat) finds himself ensnared in a battle between evil spies and counterspies over secret weapons plans.

SECRECY LEVEL

They transmit secrets using memory tricksters, who are killed as soon as they step out of line. Harsh!

BOND-AGE FACTOR

No slinky bad girls, lethal gadgets, or supervillains. Still, the book was a major influence on lan Fleming's Bond novels.



SECRET ORG

WHAT IS IT?

A clandestine group within French intelligence that handles political assassinations.
They recruit young junkie Nikita (Anne Parillaud) out of prison, fake her death, teach her fighting and sharpshooting skills—and buy her some mind-meltingly tight minidresses. Result: über-hit woman!

SECRECY LEVEL

Once she completes her training, Nikita interacts only with her stern overseer, Bob (Tchéky Karyo).

BOND-AGE FACTOR

The outfits, cleavage, and weapons are very 007-esque, but there's precious little actual espionage here.



SECRET ORGLeague of Shadows

WHAT IS IT?

A nefarious, hush-hush ancient army that doles out punishment on a civilisational scale, destroying entire societies when they become too corrupt. It teaches Bruce Wayne (Christian Bale) fighting, stealth, and survival methods—which come in handy when he becomes the Dark Knight.

SECRECY LEVEL

It's been bringing down civilisations for centuries without anyone knowing its name? Now that's a supersecret society!

BOND-AGE FACTOR

Its members have not a shred of Bond's charm. In fact, they enjoy razing cities in horrific ways so much, they're more like Bond villains.



SECRET ORGTreadstone

WHAT IS IT? Funded by the CIA, it's a group of deeply hidden, brainwashhappy pols cranking out mindless

happy pols cranking out mindless superassassins. Renegade agent Bourne (Matt Damon) threatens to reveal the existence of the covert, highly illegal training programmes. Ruh-rohl

SECRECY LEVEL

Treadstone and its successor, Blackbriar, are so explosive, the powers that be seem perfectly fine with killing everyone who knows about them.

BOND-AGE FACTOR

Bourne is mostly a tough, real-world corrective to the fantasy of Bond. So, very few gadgets, and the cars are way more mundane.



SECRET ORGThe Fraternity

WHAT IS IT?

A centuries-old cabal of killers with superhuman abilities-from heightened reflexes to freaky bullet trajectory-bending skills. The plot: A milguetoast accountant (James McAvoy) is kidnapped by a sexy Frat babe (Angelina Jolie) before discovering that he, too, possesses these strange powers.

SECRECY LEVEL

Very impressive, given that the Fraternity often leaves comical levels of vehicular chaos in its wake.

BOND-AGE FACTOR

Too much hocus-pocus for Bond-lovers, but 007 would have loved facing off with Jolie's BDSM-ish superkiller.

THE LATEST JACK REACHER THRILLER IS ON SHELVES. WE LOOKED AT THE PRINCIPLED. ANARCHY-TAMING CHARACTERS WHO CAME BEFORE HIM.

by J.I. BAKER



The best of the books: many, but the first big

Richard Stark's master approaches his job with machinelike efficiency. Parker (no first-or is it last?-name) ruthlessly follows his own code: He never double-crosses brutal revenge on any soul who messes with pathological, but we love him because, like Don Corleone and Hannibal Lecter, he's so damn good

adventures are confined cruises on his boat, the MacDonald's hero-first introduced in 1964-is McGee is hired to find

missing or stolen goods, but he nearly always becomes entangled in matters of the heartparticularly when it comes to women The best of the books: The Dreadful Lemon Sky

The Gunslinger

Introduced in the late '70s, Stephen King's Gunslinger (a.k.a. Roland Deschain) wanders a desert that is part-Old West, partpostapocalyptic dystopia, and part-parallel universe. He is searching for his nemesis, an evil entity known only as the Man in Black. Like many Old West heroes, the Gunslinger is a good man who kicks asseven kills-in the name of justice. The best of the books:

Start with The Dark Tower, and read them in order.

EMPORIUM

WHAT MEN WANT



going down.

by ERIK SOFGE





SUPER CHARGERS

Don't miss out on a last-minute meeting or a late-night rendezvous because vour phone is dead. We tested the latest portable power packs and found the five best options for bringing your gadgets back to life. by STAN HORACZEK



ETON BOOST TURBINE 2000

This 2,000 mAh power pack has an extra backup: A built-in hand crank. Two minutes of winding fuels 30 seconds of talk or text time—and works out that sore shoulder. ₹4,400; etoncorp.com

ANKER

BRAVEN BRV-BANK

Drop it, dunk it, defile it—this battery is designed for abuse. And there's a serious brain beneath its military-spec skin: The unit charges two devices at once, and it syncs with your phone, so you can manage the power supply. It also has a flashlight and bear siren, in case you have one hell of a night. ₹8,200; braven.com



JUNOJUMPR

Road warriors, rejoice: This charger's phone-resurrecting 6,000 mAh battery can also rejuvenate your ride. Connect the 12-volt jumper cables (included) and it will start a dead car in a matter of minutes. ₹6,300; junopower.com



ANKER 2ND GEN ASTRO PRO2

The Astro is built for business. Smart enough to know you're reviving, say, a tablet, it customises its output to provide the fastest, most efficient charge. That dead iPhone? It's good to go before you know it. ₹10.000: ianker.com





One of the strongest, lightest reserves around, the Optimus weighs about a pound but packs a 20,400 mAh battery-good for resuscitating a dead phone up to eight times or nearly any tablet twice. ₹8.200: ibattz.com







JABRA SPORT PULSE WIRELESS

These buds are impervious to sweat, come packed with powerful Dolby sound, and read your pulse: Tiny light sensors detect your heart rate via the blood flow in your ears. The buds are comfortable and accurate, and an accompanying app chronicles your stats, tailors programmes to fit your needs, and plays nice with such fitness apps as Runkeeper. ₹12,000; jabra.com



LIFEBEAM HELMET

It's always been tricky figuring out just how hard you're really working out on a bike. Using tech developed for fighter pilots and astronauts, the LifeBeam helmet features optical and motion sensors that, along with a suite of processors, track your vitals. As you pedal, it logs beats-perminute and calories burned, sending them both to ANT+ and Bluetooth devices. ₹14,000; life-beam.com



MIO LINK

Already have a go-to fitness device? The Mio LINK is the ideal companion. A faceless, one-button wristband, it tracks your pulse, displaying heart rate zones via an array of flashing lights, and transmits the data to Bluetooth Smart (4.0) as well as ANT+ compatible cycling computers and watches. It's an accurate and incredibly simple way to replace an existing chest strap. ₹6,000; mioglobal.com



TOMTOM RUNNER CARDIO

Running watches are often too smart for their own good: Too many tiny buttons here, too many menu options there. The Runner Cardio offers serious metrics but is a master class in simplicity. The GPS watch, which tracks pulse, pace, distance, and calories burned, has a streamlined interface and brightly lit screen that's easy to read even when you're running at a full sprint. ₹16,000; tomtom.com



ADIDAS MICOACH FIT SMART

Sure, the Fit Smart may look like just another fitness cuff, but there are plenty of smarts under the hood. Like rivals, it counts steps, stride rate, distance, and pace, but it also features a built-in sensor that reads heart rate. It optimises that info to help fit it into your personal goals; all data is sent to Adidas' Train and Run app, which offers hundreds of training plans. ₹12,000; adidas.com



OM FITNESS SHORT SLEEVED

Not into fitness bands? Slip on this shirt. Woven into its fabric is a suite of sensors that record a neurotic amount of data: respiration rate/ volume, movement (including steps and cadence), and beats-per-minute. It even keeps an eye on your musclecontraction intensity. And don't worry about perspiration: The shirt can be washed with the rest of your gear. ₹12,000; omsignal.com



Meeting smart homes, rainwate harvesting, charging points for electric cars and private spaces for the space of the space aspirations family, says Girish Shah, EVP, Marketing

Godrei Properties offers smart homes, rainwater and private spaces for the

What is your target seament?

At Godrej Properties we have always believed in and worked across varied residential segments over the years. In addition to this we also provide our customers with varied apartment configurations which they can choose from. We have had high end luxury projects like Planet Godrej as well as affordable housing projects like Godrej Hill, Kalyan in the past and we also have projects like Godrej Garden City in Ahmedabad and Godrej Prakirti in Kolkata which cater to this segment. Godrej Properties is currently developing residential, commercial and township projects spread across 9.7 million square meters (104 million square feet) in 12 cities (Mumbai, Bangalore, Kolkata, Chennai, Gurgaon, Nagpur, Ahmedabad, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Mangalore, Kochi & Pune)

> Can you describe the Indian buyer?

Given the overall economic growth in the country and rising income levels, people have more disposable income as compared to the older generation and the average age of home buyers has also dropped significantly. The aspirations of the buyers are growing and every developer today is trying his best to please the buyer. The new-age Indian is well travelled and well-heeled and has a taste for fine living along with the income to support such a lifestyle today. This, combined with excellent finance schemes and offers that are rolled out by developers who partner

with banks, means that aspirational lifestyles are more accessible than ever. Also, the definition of luxury has changed. Some years ago, owning a personal space was considered luxury. Then a phase came when swimming pools were considered luxury. Now, nothing less than personalised services will do. The definition of luxury is evolving and changing with times and what was considered luxury in the past is today considered hygiene. The recent emergence of the walk-to-work concept has also changed the way a lot of Mumbaikars look at homes today. A lot of developers are toying with the idea of creating resort-like luxury at home and in doing so some developers pay extra attention to certain important facets like the maintenance cost of living in such homes, facts like generations living together, where individual spaces need to be created. The wish-list includes gymnasiums, swimming pools, jogging and cycling tracks, yoga pods, dedicated kids' play area, dog crèche, senior citizens corner, community halls, amphitheatres, large playgrounds; the list is endless.

What are the unique features that Godrei Properties offer?

At GPL, we are well cognisant of emerging technologies worldwide and are on our way to make technology an integral part of our design ethos. Our projects, Godrej Summit, Godrej Platinum & Gold County have provisions for electric car charging stations. Similarly, some ongoing projects are



loaded with a host of green features. This is also accompanied by the realisation that world over, conservation of water, the most precious commodity and restoration of natural ecosystems centered on it have gained significance. The integration of rainwater harvesting system to conserve precious drops of water, water-efficient fixtures and drought resistant landscaping, as well as sewage treatment plants and waste management systems are just some of the measures we have adopted.

> How do you reach out to your customers?

While there are the traditional mediums of print, outdoor, radio and television, we are reaching out to its customers through various innovative on-ground brand activations. We have introduced numerous customised consumer engagement programmes to connect with customers from various backgrounds, cultures, demographics and regions. To enhance brand recall, we have defined few platforms which we will associate with like golf, theatre, and art & music, and use these mediums to reach out to their audiences.



THE COLLECTOR'S SPECIAL

Brough Motorcycles reveals a new version of the iconic power-bike, **Superior SS100**. **by BEN KEESHIN**

LAST YEAR, A 1929 BROUGH SUPERIOR

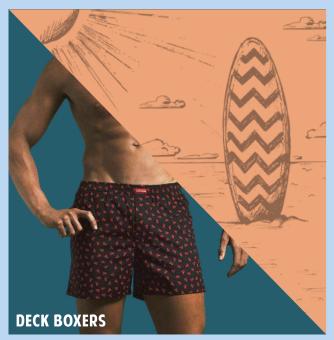
SS100 once owned by British General T.E. Lawrence (the real-life Lawrence of Arabia) was auctioned for £3,15,000, or just over ₹2.9 crore, making it the most expensive motorcycle ever sold. No one was surprised: Brough was the top-line motorcycle of its day. Brough Superiors used to be referred to as the "Rolls-Royce of motorcycles" so often that Rolls-Royce's

CEO decided to visit the factory. When he saw the quality of the workmanship, he welcomed the comparison. But only 3,048 of the bikes were made before the company was shuttered (for World War-related reasons) in 1940.

Building on that rich history, and off of Brough Superior's dominating performance in the collector market, the brand is releasing a new version of its iconic SSIOO power-bike. The new bike is shaped much like the old, with a high-mounted, streamlined tank and gently unfurling exhausts. In fact, the only real tell that this is a modern sports bike are the contemporary, racing-compound tyres. The engine is a completely in-house design: An 88-degree V-twin with a semi-dry crankcase. In fitting with the bike's bespoke nature, Brough Superior will tune each engine for each customer; 100-140 horsepower is available, as well as a choice of throttle-mappings and torque curves. Two styles are available, Titanium and Black, depending on if you'd like to channel glitz or fly under the radar.

The luxury market has fully recovered, and exclusivity never goes out of style. We foresee a big success for the brand, even with the SS100 starting at ₹38,00,000.

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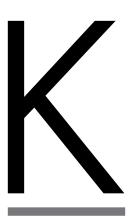




HOT GIRL CRUSH ARMED WITH AN ASCENDANT ACTING CAREER, TEEMING FANS, SOCIAL MEDIA CELEBRITY, AND A GORGEOUS BOD TO BOOT, KIARA ADVANI HAS ARRIVED. HER SEXY MAXIM DEBUT IS ALL SET TO BECOME ONE OF OUR ALL-TIME **FAVOURITES. YOU DIG?** by MEHER BAJWA hotographs by ABHAY SINGH



"I NOW NURSE THIS BURNING DESIRE TO <u>WORK</u> IN AN ABSOLUTE SONG-AND-DANCE, ALL-OUT, CHICK-FLICK DATE MOVIE."



OPPOSITE PAGE
"ZOE" swimsuit by
Moeva London
₹23,000; cape by
Label by Ritu Kumar
(p.o.r.); earrings
(₹14,500) and cuff
(₹9,500) by Minerali;
spider cuff by
Futurology ₹15,000;
strappy sandals by
Zara ₹3,990

PREVIOUS SPREAD
Bikini by Melissa
Odabash (p.o.r.); ruffled
shirt by Zara ₹2,990;
belt by Rara Avis
₹8,500; lemon quartz
necklace by Futurology
₹16,000; Agung coral
pendant by Manifest
Design ₹2,100

KIARA ADVANI IS NO DIFFERENT THAN ANY

other social media-loving 22-year-old-hooked on Twitter and Instagram because she's a selfproclaimed fashion and travel addict who loves to share her life through pictures (selfies, in particular). Oh, and she also happens to be the hottest young debutante in town, coming off a memorable acting debut in 2014's indie flick, Fugly. "I love all the attention on Twitter and Instagram. I'm awestruck by the young girls who keep tracking what I wear and praise my dancing skills. It's an overwhelming and humbling feeling since I still have a long way to go." Kiara warns us, though: "If you guys are friends with a 'Kiara Advani' on Facebook, then it's an imposter and not me. I'm not on Facebook." Uh-oh.

Admitting that she Googles herself "quite frequently" to find out what people are saying about her, Kiara also confesses there's a fair amount of pressure and peer competition with multiple debuts happening in Bollywood every year: "I would be lying if I said there's no pressure. But I'm a Bollywood addict and I'm literally tripping on the kind of films Parineeti, Alia and Sonakshi do. They have

come such a long way!"

And when it comes to her own career Kiara is more than confident about the path she wants to take. She knew she wanted to be an actor from the time she staged song and dance shows with her cousins at family functions, and aped love-struck dialogues in front of her bathroom mirror. "My debut, Fugly, was not only an extremely educational experience on-set but it was also a very demanding and emotionally exhausting role because of the trials my character faces. So now I'm focusing on waiting for something light-hearted-preferably in the romantic comedy space-to come my way. I think I've managed to prove my acting chops and I now nurse this burning desire to work in an absolute song-and-dance, all-out, chick-flick date movie. I'm reading a lot of scripts and thoroughly taking my time to pick the one film that will make me re-live my childhood days of obsessing over Dilwale Dulhaniya Le Jayenge, Kuch Kuch Hota Hai, Dil Toh Pagal Hai and the like."

On the professional circuit she looks up to Madhuri Dixit, Juhi Chawla and Deepika Padukone: "They have such strong personas



and are true-blue divas—everything about them mesmerises me!" But she has no plans of becoming another Bollywood clone: "I aspire to grow into my own self. There is certainly a 'Kiara' mold that God made me from, and I think I'm far too young to know every facet of my personality."

Originally named Alia, she graduated from two acting academies—Anupam Kher's Actor Prepares and Roshan Taneja's School of Acting, and was christened Kiara by her mentor, Salman Khan. She explains, "Simply put, we did it to avoid confusion! Everyone loved the name Kiara and I felt it suited me. So I became Kiara Advani, practically overnight!" And her relationship with Khan has been as strong as ever. "He is a wonderful human being, and in spite of being one of the busiest superstars he always makes time for me," she smiles.

Harbouring secret crushes on Hrithik Roshan "since *Kaho Na Pyaar Hai*" and Varun Dhawan who is "extremely charming and witty," Kiara keeps us guessing on who she's dating right now. But it's probably safe to say it's someone from the industry, as she very cleverly hinted.

Like us, if you're wondering what gets Kiara interested in a guy, she keeps it simple. "Just be real and normal, not weird and cheesy when you're asking a girl out. A guy who is confident but not overconfident is attractive." Got it. Eat fried rice with chopsticks—yes; motorcycle stunts—no.

Better yet, here's the cheat code to taking Kiara out on the perfect date (with Valentine's Day around the corner and all): "I'm a travel bug. Fly with me to an exotic location or even going on a long drive/road trip with amazing music makes it my kinda date." And the exotic destination in question is probably Hawaii. "My dream destination is Hawaii. I'm a water baby and it has the most tranquil and breathtaking islands," she says with a fittingly dreamy expression. And if the airfare is a little out of your annual dating budget, just be a good listener: "I have a great sense of humour. I can keep myself entertained most of the time—as well as those around me!"



"I ASPIRE TO GROW INTO MY OWN SELF. THERE IS CERTAINLY A 'KIARA' MOLD THAT GOD MADE ME FROM, AND I THINK I'M FAR TOO YOUNG TO KNOW EVERY FACET OF MY PERSONALITY."





WHILE HE MIGHT HAVE RETIRED FROM THE WORLD OF TEST CRICKET, MAHENDRA SINGH DHONI'S SPORTING JOURNEY IS FAR FROM OVER. SPORTS ILLUSTRATED INDIA EDITOR SIDDHANTH ANEY LOOKS BACK AT ALL THE HITS AND SOME MISSES.





From a ticket-checker in the Railways to becoming the only Indian captain to have won everything there is to win in cricket, M.S. Dhoni has seen it all. His ultimate legacy, though, will be winning another World Cup with the boys he picked, groomed and backed from the very start.

A FEW MONTHS AGO, IN AN INTERVIEW, India's only individual Olympic gold medallist revealed to me what changed his relationship with his sport. It seemed a simple, and minor, shift in attitude had transformed Abhinav Bindra from a good shooter into a great one. At the 2004 Athens Olympics, Bindra was in the form of his life and, when he qualified for the final in third place, a medal was definitely on the cards. Then he fell apart. He shot the worst final of the eight shooters in the fray and had to go home without having culminated what had been his obsession from the age when most of his peers were discovering soft porn.

At the athletes' village that night, a couple of fellow shooters saw him, morose and ignoring the free food, and asked if he was hungry. "No, thanks," he said. "I am still digesting all those nines." In an Olympic final, a perfect shot scores a 10.9. So, while nines are very good efforts for people like you and me, they won't quite win you international medals.

Bindra's little joke—nerdy as it might sound to anyone not familiar with the sport—happened to mean a great deal more. It was the first attempt on Bindra's part to look at what had happened and figure out what he needed to do to change it. Eventually, he realised it. "The idea is to be as obsessed with the sport but to be disconnected from the outcome," he said. "To be proces, rather than result-oriented." Four years after Athens he went to Beijing, with a radically altered shooting philosophy and created Indian sporting history.

On November 1, 2011, the Indian Army granted Bindra an honorary commission with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. By his side was the man who had led the country to the prize it covets most in all of sport—the cricket World Cup. M.S. Dhoni is a self-confessed military-lover. When he participated in NDTV's Jai Jawan show—where celebrities visit soldiers posted in various parts of the country to boost morale and get a sense of their lives in field areas—you could almost tell he was more excited to be there

than they were to have him. In fact, it is the most excited I have ever seen Dhoni. But the Ashoka lions and star on their shoulders is not the biggest thing Dhoni and Bindra have in common. The philosophy that helped Bindra achieve the tranquility to win gold in Beijing (he qualified fourth but went on to shoot a series of tens in the final), from all accounts, is something Dhoni was born with.

When Bindra was at his lowest, Dhoni was on the verge of beginning a decade of success no one could have expected. India knows very little of the man who evokes a deep and enduring admiration in the cricket fan. Yet, anecdotal evidence suggests greatness was in Dhoni's destiny. At the 2003-04 Duleep Trophy final, North Zone were to play East Zone at Mohali. The ESPN Cricinfo preview of that game talks of the selectors' interest in the fitness of Ashish Nehra and the form of openers Aakash Chopra and Gautam Gambhir. Nehra, Chopra and Yuvraj Singh would all go on to feature in the successful tour of Pakistan that followed. Yuvraj, playing at his best, treated the East's bowlers with disdain on the way to scoring fluent centuries in both innings and setting a formidable target of 408 to chase. And then, in the fourth innings, came the talking point of the match. Dhoni, opening the batting for East Zone, was an unknown entity. As a wicket-keeper he was, in fact, not expected to play at all. A last-minute opening-after Deep Dasgupta pulled out injured-meant Dhoni had a chance to do what he did best. The selectors just happened to be watching.

Nehra opened the bowling for North Zone and Dhoni hit the first ball, one-bounce, into the fence. Pissed off, the Delhi seamer bowled the expected bouncer next, hoping to rattle the young 'keeper. Dhoni hooked him for six. He ended the game with five dismissals behind the stumps. But it was his 60 runs off 47 deliveries that really caught the attention of the establishment. The boy had balls—that much was clear.

In early 2004, Dhoni was with India A, playing a triangular series in Kenya that also included Pakistan A. Chopra, who has seen







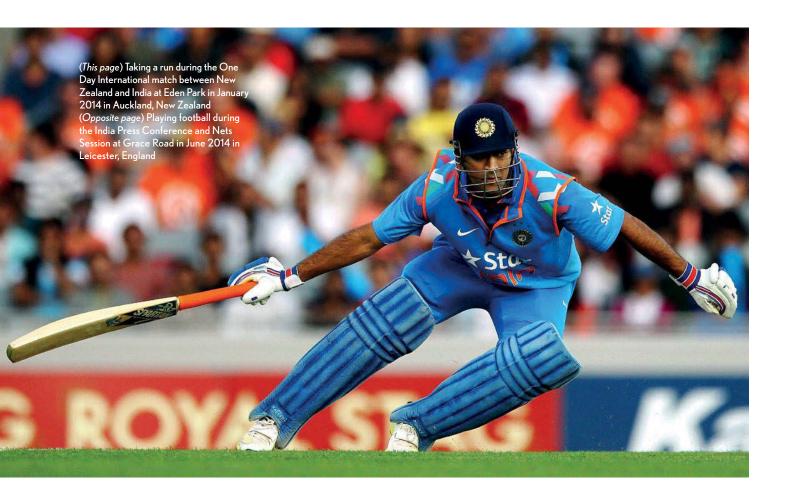
"FOR ME,
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Dhoni up close as much as anyone and has also been a vocal critic of his captaincy in the recent past, was Dhoni's roommate on the tour. In The Caravan's recent cover story on Dhoni, Chopra says he was, "taken aback by his audacity" as he swept and reverseswept Iftikhar Anjum, a Pakistani seamer, for consecutive boundaries in a match in which he scored 119 runs unbeaten." He told Sports Illustrated India of another incident that stands out as an example of the man's thought process. Chopra was watching as Dhoni bowled over after over to Dinesh Kartik in the nets, giving him valuable batting practice. Chopra was intrigued by the situation and asked Dhoni why he was so diligently helping a player who was his immediate competition not just on that tour but also for an eventual place in the senior squad. Back then, in fact, Kartik might have been slightly ahead in the race for the keeper-number-six number-seven spot. "Aakash bhai, agar aapko bhi batting karni hai toh kara deta hoon (I don't mind bowling to you too if you want some batting practice)," Chopra recalls Dhoni's response. "For me,

individuals don't matter. My intent is to help anyone who is going to play for the country."

I recently read the story of Anthony Blake, the first African-American All-Ivy League swimmer. A philosophy major at Yale, Blake had an assignment on the subject of the love of fate. The swimmer (whose story, by the way, is worth a read) wrote the words Amor Fati (Latin for love of fate) in bold letters and submitted the assignment. He argued that he was embracing his fate in the context of the assignment. Dhoni might not have a degree in philosophy-nor might he concern himself with such intellectual concepts-but he certainly took all that came his way in a boundless stride that naturally attracted anyone who watched him play. And he certainly hasn't shied away from his fate.

From the first time we saw Dhoni on the cricket field he had about him the aloofness of an outsider. Perhaps the fact that he came from the cricketing boondocks of Jharkhand had something to do with that. There was no Ranji Trophy teammate to help him settle into the Indian dressing room. Sachin Tendulkar entered the India squad with



the support of Mumbai stalwarts Sunil Gavaskar and Dilip Vengsarkar. In the dressing room he had seniors like Ravi Shastri to chat with in Marathi. Dhoni—a ticket checker with the Railways based in Kharagpur—had no one.

At the turn of the century Indian cricket was in trouble. A series of fixing allegations and indictments cast a looming shadow on the sport and the country. Sourav Ganguly was instrumental in resurrecting the image of the team and the nation. Under his passionate leadership India became competitive, fought hard and, sometimes, won. Dada became the Captain. He was born to be a leader. And his elegance in stroking a ball through covers only added to his aura. When Dhoni played his first ODI in December 2004, Ganguly, Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid were all in the squad. In 2007, he took a team of boys to South Africa to play another kind of world cup-the World T20-and led the side to an unlikely victory in that memorable tournament. By then it was clear Dhoni would lead India not just in limited-overs cricket but in every format of the game.

The challenges were immense. Over the next few years the men who had been the backbone of the senior squad would, one by one, call time on their careers. Dhoni's contribution in building on Ganguly's successes while leading a side in transformation was immeasurable. It is for these reasons that Dhoni has been rated as India's best captain by both Ganguly and Tendulkar. In 2001, Dhoni had the chance to get Tendulkar a drink of water in an East versus West Zone match. In 2010, Dhoni was Tendulkar's captain and the non-striker when he became the first man to score a double hundred in a One Day International.

My colleague, Vimal Kumar, had requested Dhoni to write a chapter in his book on Tendulkar. For the write-up, Vimal suggested to Dhoni that he was best placed to speak about the weight of expectation that burdens Tendulkar when he steps out to bat for India. It was a fair point. Perhaps no other cricketer has ever carried the expectation that Dhoni has. Yet Dhoni's response was unequivocal. "No matter what you or the media might say to me but you can't do that

to Sachin," he told Vimal. "Similarly, I can go out with you to any multiplex for a movie or may have lunch at any restaurant without any hassles, but Sachin can't do that. No one can come even remotely close to Sachin in terms of popularity, admiration and fame. He is like Amitabh Bachchan."

If Tendulkar is like Amitabh Bachchan then Dhoni has clear similarities with Clint Eastwood. Whatever the odds, or the situation of a match, or the result, he has almost never lost his cool. The stress of the job and the sheer volume of cricket he has played over the last decade might show on Dhoni in the form of a greying mane and stubble. But those years of working on his strength as a club cricketer-come rain or sun-and feeding his explosive energy made Dhoni a prime physical specimen capable of dealing with the rigours of non-stop cricket. Rarely has there been an Indian cricketer who has so symmetrically balanced physical prowess and mental fortitude.

But for all Dhoni's greatness, his story, much like the bigger story of Indian cricket, will be told in the shadow of the IPL betting



RARELY HAS THERE BEEN AN INDIAN CRICKETER WHO HAS SO SYMMETRICALLY BALANCED PHYSICAL PROWESS AND MENTAL FORTITUDE.

Dhoni hits out for six runs during day one of the 5th Investec Test match between England and India at The Kia Oval in August 2014 in London

and corruption allegations that have dominated the conversation in the past year or more. The first whisper of controversy began when it was revealed that Dhoni held a share in Rhiti Sports—the management firm started by his closest friend and manager, Arun Pandey. But there was never a shred of evidence to indicate Dhoni had favoured any of the players signed by Rhiti in his capacity as Team India captain or as captain of the Chennai Super Kings IPL franchise.

His connections with N. Srinivasan, India Cements and his role in the Super Kings is well documented. Because of these connections he became a key figure in the Mudgal Committee investigation. Dhoni's aloofness, in this context, became frustrating. When asked how he would clean up Indian cricket, Dhoni ridiculously suggested trying a laundry. It was an attempt to trivialise a question that dealt with the integrity of the sport that had made him the fifth most commercially valuable athlete in the world (according to Forbes, behind Roger Federer but ahead of Rafael Nadal). His 20 endorsement deals are topped only by Shah Rukh Khan, who has 21. And yet, instead of taking a strong stance on corruption in cricket, Dhoni chose to go down the path he had travelled on all along. It seemed like he almost didn't care. In the context of a sport that hundreds of millions in India consider sacred, this aloofness was unacceptable. It would have been meaningful to have the strongest captain in the nation's history stand up and say that he put his full weight behind those trying to clean up the game. That he was hurt at the fact that the image of the sport he loves, and the country he loves, had been tarnished by those who do not even take to the field. That he wanted the integrity of cricket to be above board.

Yet, such is his rakish charm that he, the highest individual taxpayer in the Red

state of Jharkhand remains a quintessential people's hero. Where Tendulkar was the dream that millions of middle-class Indians had aspired to, Dhoni represented the hopes of a new generation of Indians enjoying education, exposure and money for the first time. If Virat Kohli talks about owning 35 motorcycles, he is likely to be deconstructed as a typical rich brat from West Delhi–used to blowing up big money on boys' toys. With Dhoni, it is talked about as his passion. So much so, that there is even a racing team he lends his name to.

Dhoni's is a remarkable story. It is a tale of quiet confidence and imperturbable fortitude. There is also an underlying intelligence that has made Dhoni not just a sporting success, but a commercial super hit. He has the mass appeal of Salman Khan and yet, as he gets on his bike in his dungarees and dark glasses and gets ready to ride into the sunset, he maintains an effortless cool that hipsters and yuppies both adore.

Perhaps one of the reasons Dhoni has skirted around the issue of corruption in the IPL is that he holds his T20 legacy closest to his heart. His phenomenal rise through the ranks was accelerated by the World T20 win in South Africa, the second star above the crest on the Indian shirt. When the IPL happened, Dhoni read that situation-like most he has been faced with-very well. He knew it would make cricket a viable career for many more talented youngsters than ever before. He also knew that India, with its love for tamasha and Bollywood, would lap it up. Dhoni retired from Test cricket after 90 games. He is, by far, the longest-serving and most successful wicketkeeper-captain in the history of Test cricket. Yet, his Test legacy is never something that concerned Dhoni. "Cricket is cricket," he told Sports Illustrated India's Vimal Kumar. The underlying sentiment was that he did not value one form of the game over another. That might not be entirely true.

From 2008-14, Dhoni's India grew from strength to strength. He never had a potent, scary bowling attack to pin the opposition down. But he worked with what he had and was a master at grooming talent. Rohit Sharma's inclusion in the squad for the 2015 World Cup is, in no small measure, thanks to the fact that Dhoni promoted him to the opener's spot in early 2013. The move changed Rohit's fortunes and he went from a heavily underperforming asset to the first batsman to score two double hundreds in ODIs. Dhoni will always be Rohit's captain.

In a new motorcycle ad, Dhoni shows the ability to laugh at himself and not take it all too seriously. The ad talks about the "new star," a veiled reference to the Kohli-Dhoni equation. In a sequel to that ad, Dhoni calls Kohli and tells him that there is a new star on the block, making the junior batsman anxious. The ad is brilliant because it tells those of us watching so many things. It tells us not to invent stories of discord between Kohli and Dhoni. Even that Dhoni sees Kohli as the logical successor to his place as the face of Indian cricket. It also plays on the fickleness of the Indian fan and an athlete's constant battle to stay loved, stay relevant.

Dhoni took a team of boys and moulded them into a squad of world-beaters. Along the way he managed to win everything. India topped the ICC Test rankings and Dhoni led his teams to victory in the Champions Trophy, World Cups in both formats, the IPL and even the altogether unnecessary Champions League. And he did it without the fearsome bowling that Clive Lloyd had at his disposal when he rebuilt the West Indies. For Dhoni, there is nothing left to win. But watching his boys fulfil their potential will be the icing on the cake. Oh, and another World Cup won't hurt, either.

MAXIM HOT EVENTS



Taking the year forward on an inspirational note, the Maxim premiere of The Theory Of Everything at DT Cinemas, DLF Promenade, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi, was a big success. The movie is based on the life of renowned physicist Stephen Hawking and his wife, Jane, with Eddie Redmayne and Felicity Jones playing the leads. Their performances have won them several award nominations and left the audience at the premiere feeling thrilled and motivated.











































THE WINNER: SURBHI TEWARI

The Miss Maxim experience: "It was a memorable experience for me. I'm an admirer of Malaika Arora Khan and being crowned by her was the highlight of the whole experience for me."

Dream holiday destination: "Has always been Greece. I love everything about it."

Celebrity crush: "Ryan Gosling, because he's deliciously hot and every time I watch *The Notebook* he makes me fall in love with him."

OPENING SPREAD
Surbhi wears: Bikini top by
Shivan & Narresh for Stylista
₹3,150 (for the set); bikini
bottom by Nidhi Munim
₹2,250 (for the set);
bracelets by Aé-Tee ₹3,100;
ring by Aquamarine ₹1,100;
earrings by Isharya ₹14,280
Akshata wears: Bikini top by
The Closet Label ₹2,900;
high-waist bottoms by The
Beach Company ₹750; ring
by Aé-Tee ₹1,900
Meetali wears: Swimsuit by
The Closet Label ₹2,800;
ring (₹6,280) and earrings
(₹9,000) by Isharya



"MY FAVOURITE HOLIDAY DESTINATION IS THE UNITED KINGDOM," SAYS MEETALI. "I'M A BIG FAN OF EXCITING CITIES, HISTORIC PLACES, STUNNING COUNTRYSIDE AND BEAUTIFUL COASTLINES."



FIRST RUNNER-UP: MEETALI OHRI

The Maxim shoot experience: "I had a lot of fun at the shoot. It was great to shoot with Surbhi and Akshata—the more the merrier!"

When not posing for the camera: "I'm chilling by a pool and always thinking of new poses."

Best way to ask you out: "He's got to get me flowers and maybe sing me a romantic song if I'm in the mood. Conditions apply: He's got to be handsome, intelligent and downto-earth!"







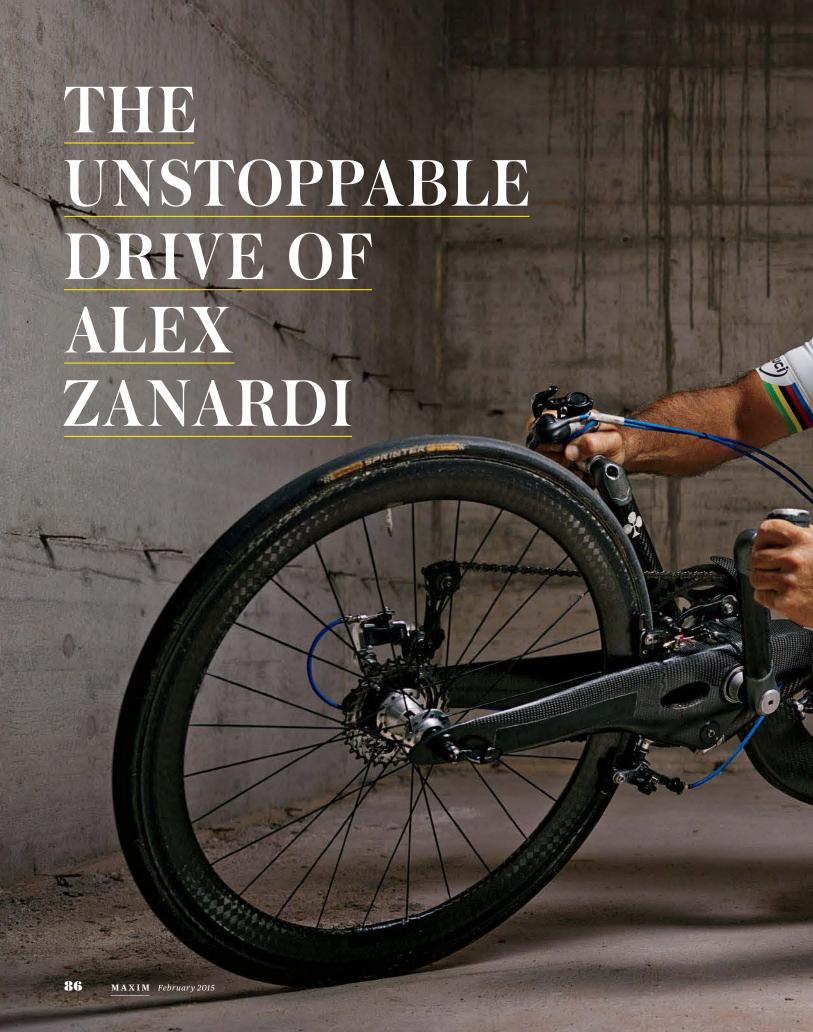


THIS PAGE Meetali wears: Swimsuit by Nidhi Munim at The Beach Company ₹3,200; palm ring by Isharya ₹4,680; earrings by Mrinalini Chandra at Minerali ₹9,000; shoes by Dune ₹7,990

STYLING NELLY WADIA HAIR & MAKE-UP MEHAK OBEROI STYLING ASSISTANT KARISHMA CHIPLUNKAR SHOT ON LOCATION AT COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT, MUMBAI

"A GUY'S GOTTA BE CHARMING," SAYS SURBHI. "I'VE GOT TO FIND HIM INTERESTING BEFORE I AGREE TO GO OUT WITH HIM."









ALEX ZANARDI CONSIDERS HIMSELF

lucky. His ability to drive a car fast and efficiently around racetracks has provided him a life he never considered possible when he was running around a small Italian village, the son of the local plumber. He won two IndyCar championships, in back-to-back years, before returning to Europe to challenge himself in Formula 1, the world's most popular motorsport. Along the way, he met his wife, Daniela, in a race paddock, and she gave him his only child, Niccoló, now a healthy, happy 16-year-old. He has two beautiful homes, a life of enviable luxury, and the kind of fame that enables him, in Italy, to go by a single name: Zanardi.

But the thing he feels most fortunate about might surprise you. Alex Zanardi, dashing racecar driver, feels lucky to have lost his legs. "First, let me tell you that the perfect life is not the one where everything is always perfect. You only recognise how good something is if you've been through the bad," he says, from a chair on the roof-deck lounge atop his beachfront villa, on the Tuscan shore. The view is spectacular. There's ocean to the front—on a clear day you can see Corsica, Elba, and Sardinia—and off the back are the verdant hills of the Maremma coast, where Zanardi pedals his hand bike every morning.

"The perfect life is the combination of great moments and bad ones, and under that point of view, my life is fantastic, because I've certainly hit more than one bump," Zanardi continues, smiling because we both know which bump he's referring to, and that's a funny and absurd way of describing a 2001 crash, during a race in Germany, so violent that it tore both of his legs off below the knees. The way he sees it, the accident was fate, and fate is beyond our control. To lament or regret something that happened is a waste. It's as pointless as fretting over your height, or being born French and not Italian.

"Once you put everything in the right perspective, even bad times can be an opportunity to refresh your appetite, your desire," he says, absently tracing an imaginary circle on the table. "What would we all be without a project? Whether the project is something that you decide to look for or something that destiny imposed on you-like me after my accident—there's no difference. Because after so many years have passed, look at all the things I've done, all of which are more or less directly related to my condition. I'm comfortable in my life. I know that I'm a lucky boy. Losing my legs was one of the greatest opportunities of my life."

ALEX ZANARDI IS 47, which is old for a professional auto racer and even older for an elite cyclist-not that this concerns him in the slightest. Since recovering from the 2001 crash, he has transitioned from one pursuit to the next, and this year, for the first time, he's competing in both. He'd been so busy racing hand cycles in recent years-piling up awards and titles-that he forgot how much he missed motorsports. Then, two years ago, he tested a BMW touring car at Germany's legendary Nürburgring. A little over a year later, in January 2014, he announced his return to car racing after a four-year hiatus, on the Blancpain Sprint Series, and as of early August, he was comfortably acclimated to his new BMW Z4 GT3, outfitted with hand controls so that he can race it at high speeds without the use of his legs.

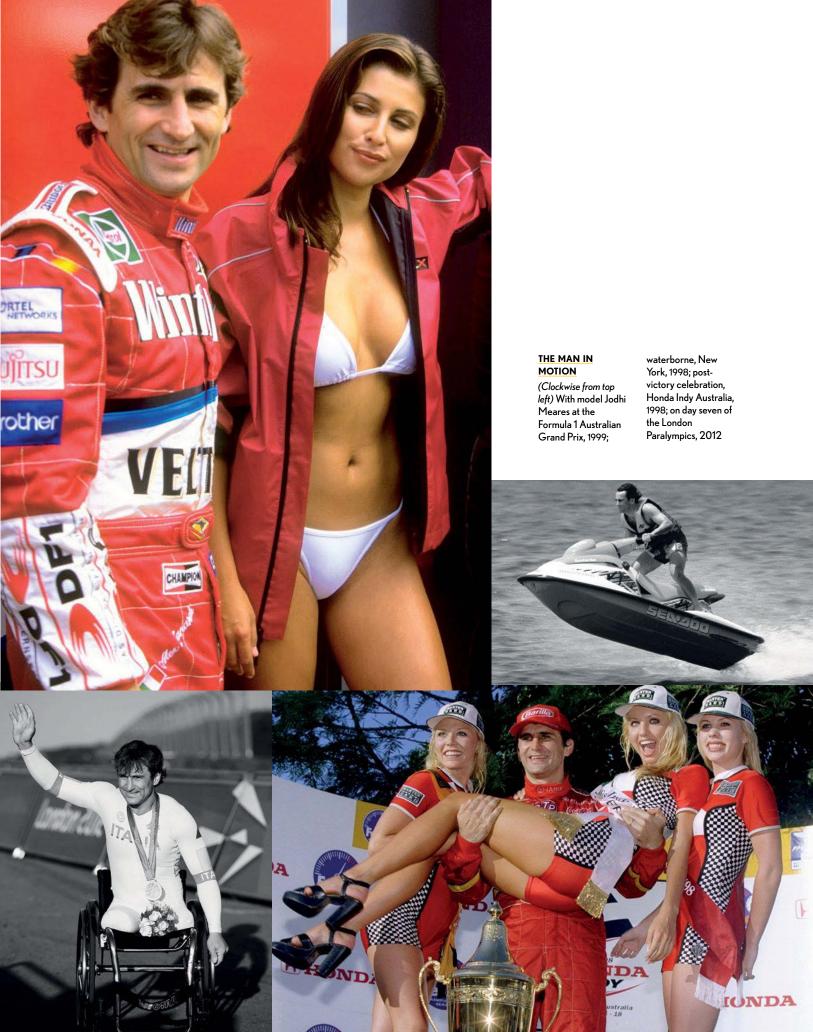
"I can't say I'm still in the middle of it, but

there are still some things I can do in motorsports and paracycling," Zanardi says. "Despite my age, I can still do some stuff."

He says this while standing in front of a small group of photos on an otherwise bare set of walls in the immaculately clean and brightly lit garage under his beach house. There's a shot of him with his longtime friend and former team boss Chip Ganassi, who brought Zanardi to America to race in the first place, and another of him celebrating his sixth consecutive pole, which broke the IndyCar record. There's an unfinished section of the basement nearby where Zanardi thinks he might put the Indy car Ganassi gave him last year—the one he drove his first season in America—making good on an old promise.

When he's upright, Zanardi braces himself on a pair of carbon-fibre canes that help him balance and walk atop his prosthetic legs. Contrary to popular rumour, he did not design these legs. "I don't know where that story came from," he says. But he did design some purpose-built prosthetics for swimming. Traditional fake legs are too heavy for water, and to swim with no legs seemed to him both difficult and grotesque: "Although my name is Zanardi, and in my country I can't avoid being recognised and cheered, I didn't want to go in the swimming pool and jump in the water like a bag of potatoes." His solution was to use a special foam designed for lining gas tanks in racecars. It is light but strong and doesn't absorb liquid.

Design is something he enjoys. The villa's garage is empty except for a tidy workbench and a pair of hand cycles he constructed with help from an Italian racecar builder near his other home, in Bologna. The one he races looks a little like the motorcycle from *Dark Knight*-era Batman: low-slung and aerodynamic, made from carbon-fibre, and so light that he can lift it over his head easily with one arm—which he did while posing for



celebration photos after winning a Paralympic gold medal in London in 2012.

A few days before I arrived in Italy, Zanardi won his second World Cup race of the season in Spain, solidifying his position as the world's top hand cyclist. This morning he'd gone for a long training ride, because the World Championships loomed ahead at the end of August. "It's still warm," he jokes, as I run a hand over the smooth, curved side of the bike's cockpit. Zanardi will fly almost directly to the World Championships in South Carolina from a Blancpain Sprint Series event in Slovakia, with only a one-night stopover in Italy to pick up his bike and see his son.

Driving and cycling each offer Zanardi something different, but he can't say which he prefers. Auto racing is more viscerally thrilling, but it requires the close collaboration of many people, and a driver is only as good as his car and crew. On the bike, it's all about the rider, and the one with the most power and endurance, physically and mentally, should prevail. Zanardi believes that those who experience prolonged success aren't just phenomenal physical specimens; they're also mentally transcendent, in touch with their own potential in a metaphysical, philosophical way. "I call it the five-second lesson," he explains. "In my young age, I was probably better equipped physically, but not so much mentally. I learned that when you feel you've given it all, and you're prepared to say, 'That's it, I'm done,' if you close your eyes and give it five more seconds, well, it may happen that when you open your eyes, the others have given up." Zanardi laughs, loudly. He realises that this sounds silly, but he's also certain that it's true. "When you understand this, you begin searching for those five seconds everywhere. There's always something more, some hidden energy inside your body that, if you are curious enough, you

ZANARDI'S CRASH WILL always haunt fans of open-wheel racing. No one expected him to survive. It was just four days after September 11, 2001, and the CART race at EuroSpeedway Lausitz in Klettwitz, Germany, known as the German 500, had been renamed the American Memorial. All the teams raced with decals on their cars honouring the red, white, and blue. Zanardi was leading the race with 13 laps to go when he spun out while leaving the pits and was T-boned at 320 km per hour by Canadian racer Alex Tagliani, who had no time to swerve out of the way. The resulting collision ripped

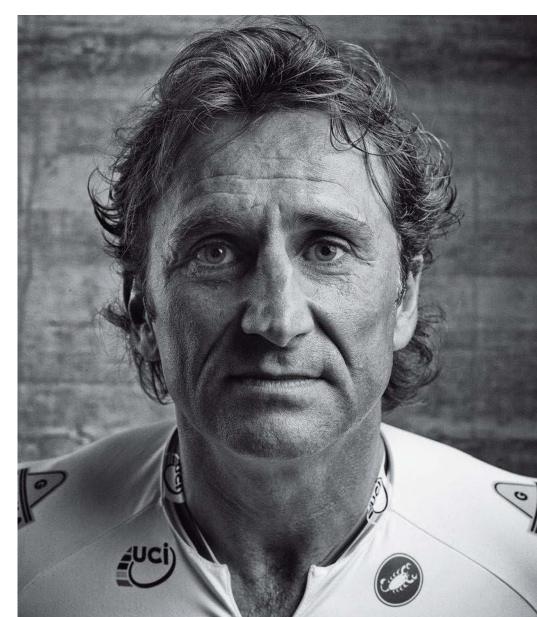
off the entire front of Zanardi's car, and his legs went with it. In the horrific slow-motion footage of the crash, everything explodes into fragments that scatter across the track.

By the time medics reached him, Zanardi was in shock. Blood poured in such volume from the stumps that remained of his legs that it formed pools under the car. His heart stopped seven times on the helicopter that flew him to Berlin, and he lived for more than 50 minutes with less than a single litre of blood in his body before doctors were able to begin a transfusion.

When Zanardi woke up, eight days later, he didn't remember a minute of the race. His injuries were so devastating that doctors

weren't sure if he would have any remaining bodily functions. But other than the fact that he had no legs—and was in excruciating pain—Zanardi felt upbeat. "I didn't know what exactly had happened, but I had a vague idea," he recalls. "And I was happier than a pig in shit to be alive."

Zanardi has said, in past interviews, that he's not sure he would give up the experiences he's had because of the crash in exchange for his legs; at least, it would be a difficult decision. "When I was a little kid, my dad always told me, 'Listen, life is a great opportunity. It can bring you amazing things that you cannot even dream of. But if you want to make this happen, you have to work



hard to turn your dreams into objectives that are potentially achievable. So take every day as an opportunity to add something to your life." When he was young, Zanardi says, he didn't really understand what his father meant, but this was the message he heard again and again during his recovery.

"When I announced to people that I'm going back to drive a racecar, everyone asked me, 'After what happened to you, aren't you scared to jump into a car again?' This is a very irrational question, because I'm not any more vulnerable than anyone else. Anything that happened to me in the past can happen in the future whether I drive a racecar or not." He mentions Michael Schumacher, the Formula 1 legend who languished in a coma for half a year after what amounted to a freak fall while skiing. "He had also lived an entire life driving a dangerous machine, and then one day he's doing something that we all do, and he bangs his head. It's life."

Zanardi tells me about a friend, a fellow paracyclist who is paralysed because of a broken neck. "The way he broke it is absolutely amazing," Zanardi says. The man, a devout Christian, had a giant picture of the Madonna hanging over his bed, and one night it fell and broke his neck. "Can you believe this?" Zanardi asks.

His friend didn't lose faith. The only way forward after terrible tragedy is not to dwell. Things can always be worse. Zanardi says he'll never forget a man he befriended in the rehab hospital he stayed in for two months after the accident. The man's daughter had been born with no legs. One afternoon, Zanardi saw him cradling her and weeping, and he felt compelled to say something to comfort him. No, the man said. I'm fine. His were tears of joy, because the girl had just been fitted for her first-ever prosthetic legs. "I'm crying because I'm the happiest man on Earth. Today I bought my daughter a pair of shoes." As he tells the story, Zanardi pantomimes stabbing himself in the chest.

"I looked in the mirror and said, 'You are fucking lucky. You never dare complain in the future,' because what more could I ask for? I was 34, with a beautiful family behind me. I had enough money to put macaroni in the pot without having to worry about it." Which isn't to say that these were easy rationalisations. "I also had great reasons to complain. The day before the crash I was in a hotel suite overlooking the ocean in paradise, and the next day I find myself in the hospital with no legs. It's a big, big fall."

Less than two years later, Zanardi was back in a racecar. He returned to Lausitz to complete the final 13 laps of the race that nearly killed him—"the forgotten laps," as they were known—in front of a packed grandstand just before the running of the German 500. Zanardi hit 190 miles per hour. "I didn't feel like I was out of the car for one-and-a-half years," he told reporters after.

"Especially if you consider that all I've been doing is adjusting prosthetic legs and spending time with my son, and the fastest thing I've driven is my road car. So it was a very pleasant surprise for me, too."

ZANARDI HAS A FUNNY story about how he became the world's best hand cyclist. He was at the World Touring Car Championship in 2007 when a representative from Barilla pasta, one of his sponsors, invited him to New York to talk at a dinner the company was hosting before that year's marathon. Zanardi replied that he would be honoured to attend.

It so happened that Zanardi had been flipping through an Italian magazine a week before and had seen a picture of Clay Regazzoni, the disabled Swiss racer (now deceased), competing in a previous year's marathon on a hand cycle. Zanardi had never ridden a hand cycle, but when the Barilla man mentioned the marathon, Zanardi had an idea. "You know what," he said. "Since I'm coming to New York, I might as well do it."

At that moment, Zanardi didn't know what

the thing he would ride on was called. The only time he'd ever seen a hand cycle was a year prior, when he'd bumped into a guy at a gas station who had one on a trailer. That man, Vittorio Podesta, is now a teammate of Zanardi's on the Italian national team and one of his closest friends, but at the time he was just a man with a peculiar bike. They exchanged numbers, and a year later, Zanardi called Podesta and told him what he'd just done-pledged to race the New York City Marathon, on a machine he'd never even sat on-and asked where he might find one. "He said, 'Wow, that's fantastic. We have one year to train, and I will help you!" Zanardi recalls. "And I was like, 'No, I am talking about this year,' and he was like, 'No, it's not possible!"

Zanardi finished fourth, although he insists this is actually less impressive than it sounds. He was about 15 minutes behind the winner, and there were really only three elite-level riders in the field, he says. But when you consider that he was a complete beginner, it's fairly astounding, and the Italian papers reacted accordingly, splashing him across the sports pages and suggesting that he could emerge as a contender for the 2008 Paralympics in Beijing.

Zanardi wasn't ready for that. He had, he says, "simply other things to do"—in particular, auto racing. He was in his fourth season of the World Touring Car Championship. But what the bike did was bring exercise—good, hard aerobic exercise—back into his life, and that felt as important to him as any trophy. "When I lost my legs, I thought I also lost the opportunity to feel a drop of sweat coming down from my head," he explains. It also gave him independence. "This was fantastic, because I could jump on that thing in my garage, go for 50 or 150 km, and come back on my own."

The urge to compete, however, is just wired into some people, and over time, Zanardi's hobby metastasised into an obsession. He began to enter races, starting small at first. The competitions were filled with elite athletes and fiercely contested, but Zanardi realised he had a couple of advantages. First, his disability was perfect for hand cycling because he was practically all torso; unlike paraplegics, he had no legs at all, and that meant less weight to pull. Second, he came from auto racing, where the machine is at least as important as its operator, and his knowledge of weight, balance, and

"THE PERFECT LIFE IS THE COMBINATION OF GREAT MOMENTS AND BAD ONES, AND UNDER THAT POINT OF VIEW, MY LIFE IS FANTASTIC," SAYS ZANARDI, PHILOSOPHICALLY. "BECAUSE I'VE CERTAINLY HIT MORE THAN ONE BUMP."

"I JUST DROVE AROUND THINKING MAYBE THIS IS THE LAST

LAP IN MY RACING CAREER," HE RECALLS. "THIS MIGHT BE

THE LAST LAP OF MY LIFE."

aerodynamics was a huge asset in a sport that had seen few technological advances in cycle design.

By 2009, Zanardi was experienced on the bike and began to consider competing in world events. He committed full-time to cycling and set qualifying for the 2012 Paralympic Games in London as his primary goal. In 2011, he won the New York City Marathon and followed that up with a silver medal at the 2011 World Championships. Zanardi says he reached "the peak of my learning curve" just before London, when he won his first-ever World Cup race, in Italy. His rivals, he thinks, chalked that win up to a home-course advantage, and were still underestimating him right up until the point where he blew them away in London-a victory that was chosen by the International Paralympic Committee as the sports moment of the year.

For Zanardi, the win was a lifetime high, the equal, he says, of his first-ever IndyCar victory. He was genuinely ecstatic—for a few minutes. "I was very happy," he tells me, back on his deck overlooking the Mediterranean. "But at the end of the day, it was a sad moment, because it was over. It was the period leading up to that point, every time climbing my hills, doing my training, I was always thinking, *That's where I'm going.*"

A year later, in Canada, he won his first World Championship, which means that Zanardi is currently the reigning Paralympic gold medalist and overall world champion, as well as the world champion in the time trial. "I think it's a huge thing that he did—to be at the top level of one sport and go to the top level of another is rarely done," says his pal, Chip Ganassi. "But to those of us who know him, it's not a surprise. He has a bigger heart than anyone I know."

Now Zanardi is back behind the wheel, too, racing cars professionally for perhaps the last time in his life, and he is doing it because he loves it, not because he harbours any dreams of returning to the sport's upper echelon. In the past, he has told reporters that while he

can be nearly as fast as he once was, with the right car set-up, his physical condition does present a handicap he can't overcome at the absolute top level of racing-for instance, in Formula 1. When I mention this, he agrees that he couldn't possibly race with the best anymore, but says that it has nothing to do with his disability. "I'm 47," he explains, and with age come responsibilities that you carry as burdens. "You have a boat, you have a nice car, and you have a son driving you crazy. You have a nice house you want to enjoy. You have a dog barking in your garden. You have a lot of things that are fantastic, and they fit beautifully in a 47-year-old man's life. But you're no longer a killer machine like in your 20s, when somebody calls and they say, 'Hey, Alex, we're testing tomorrow in England,' and you say, 'OK, let me put clean underwear in my bag and jump on a plane.' And your girlfriend says, 'Hey, you told me you were going to bring me to the disco tonight,' and you say, 'Fuck off; I have to go drive my car.' At my age, this is not possible."

Zanardi isn't envious of today's drivers. He thinks that the swollen budgets and the crushing pressures of being a driver at the top level—especially in Formula 1—force them to shut down their personalities. They simply don't have time to be charismatic.

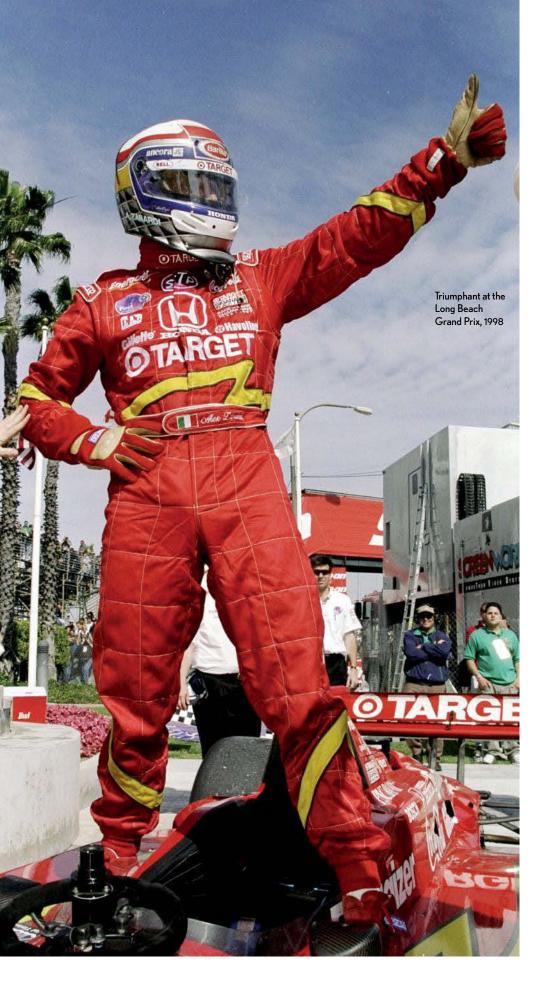
At first, Zanardi suggests that drivers like Sebastian Vettel and Michael Schumacher may have been simply more talented than he is, but then he backs away. "No, that would be false if I said this. I never felt I'm the best driver in the world, but I've always felt good enough to be as good as the best driver in the world." On a given day, he felt he could beat anyone, and that's all he ever needed to know. "Maybe it's because I'm Italian. I need to be supported, I need to enjoy what I do, I need to fit in the right environment, I need to jell with the people I work with. And then I can be a fucking amazing machine."

Certainly, Zanardi showed incredible talent in his day, not to mention gigantic balls. His most famous move came in 1996, when he overtook leader Bryan Herta in the final lap in one of the most feared corners in all of racing—the notorious "Corkscrew" at Laguna Seca. The feat, nicknamed "the Pass," is legendary. It was so outlandish, so dangerous, so likely to kill or maim a driver that passing in that spot was subsequently banned; thus, Zanardi's heroics can never be repeated.

"This may sound arrogant, but I don't think I've seen some of the guys we've mentioned making a move like I did. I won races when other people would've parked the car and called it a day." He's especially fond of something Scottish racing legend Dario Franchitti once told reporters: "The guy would simply ignore that he was beaten." Ganassi, one of the most successful race team owners in history, is unequivocal about Zanardi's abilities: "He was one of the most talented drivers I've ever had the opportunity to work with, if not the most talented."

The knock on Zanardi as a racer is that he never dominated in Formula 1. But Formula 1 is about having the right car and team, and he simply never did. I ask him what he thinks of the European bias against NASCAR. He scoffs. "We have this story in Italy where the fox is a very smart animal, but she is not capable of jumping very high. So when the grape is too high for her to reach, she says, 'I don't like it.' She doesn't say, 'I can't reach it.' That's why she's not interested. So I love Formula 1, but I don't appreciate much when I hear this type of comment. And because often the comment is also 'Yeah, but the level of competition [in NASCAR] is very low. It wouldn't take much for a European team to go over there and kick butts,' and it's absolutely false. It's bloody complicated. When you have that type of attitude, you often burn your fingers. And they would."

WHEN ZANARDI GAVE UP racing for cycling in 2009, he thought that was probably the end for him as a professional driver. This struck him most profoundly at Monza, where he was testing his car prior to



the final race of the year. At 5:55 pm, five minutes before the circuit closed for the night, Zanardi's team called him in, but he told them he wanted to run one last lap. The tyres are cooked, he was told. Come on in. No, he replied. He didn't need to drive particularly fast, but he did need one more turn, because in his mind it could have been his final lap ever on the track he grew up dreaming about. "I just drove around thinking maybe this is the last lap in my racing career," he recalls. "This might be the last lap of my life."

Still, he was comfortable with that possibility. "It was a sweet moment. Also, I was moving on to a very exciting project"—racing cycles. "Even after I retire from both motorsports and paracycling, I will search for an exciting project that will fit into that time of my life. It may well be picking up a fishing rod; who knows?"

That decision is hardly imminent, but others are approaching fast. Zanardi fully expects to represent Italy in Rio de Janeiro at the 2016 Paralympics. And even though he's winning bike races while also racing cars, he knows that's not a balancing act he can likely continue if he really wants to go to Brazil with a legitimate shot at gold.

"I know there is a compromise, and I cannot think of going to the games in Rio and approaching the season expecting both to be competitive in motorsports and to win the Paralympic Games. So if I reach Rio de Janeiro that year"—and the two golds and one silver he won at the 2014 World Championships are probably enough to qualify him—"I will certainly have to stop again, and park the car."

The question is: Will he finally be parking it for good?

"Who knows? I may decide to have somebody keep the engine warm for me for the following season, or I may decide not to start again, because of course, every year counts. There will come a day when I will no longer enjoy competing if I cannot be competitive." He smiles. "But so far, things have gone quite well."







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MODULE WINDERS



After months of scouring several cities in the country, the KS Miss Maxim 2015 search ended with a bang at the Grand Finalé in Mumbai recently. Hundreds of girls competed, 10 were shortlisted and, after three closely-contested rounds, **surbhi tewari** was crowned the winner by the Finalé Jury. The hunt for the hottest girlnext-door is finally over—we found her... and several others! Here's a look at all the glamour and drama that ensued.

THE GRAND FINALÉ

DOZENS OF
ATTRACTIVE
WOMEN AND ONE
HOT EVENT—THE
KS MISS MAXIM
2015 GRAND
FINALÉ WAS
A COMPLETE
SUCCESS!

The ballroom of SOFITEL Mumbai was buzzing with excited activity as the stage was set for the Grand Finalé of the KS Miss Maxim 2015 pageant. The finalists were practising their poses backstage, the production guys were performing last-minute checks and the Maxim team was on the verge of a nervous breakdown in between sips of champagne. But we got ourselves together by showtime and what a show it was! It's not every day that "the hottest girl next door" is found, though we wish that were the case. The first round of introductions saw the contestants in Maxim T-shirts and denim cut-offs-a massive crowd pleaser! The second round was the much-awaited swimsuit segment and the girls did a great job-they were confident and sassy. The final round of the pageant saw the contestants answer fun but clever questions, clad in evening gowns.













EVENTHIGHLIGHTS

Jury Chairperson Malaika Arora Khan entered a packed ballroom filled with men (and women) who didn't stop hooting and cheering till she walked the ramp as well. The emcee, Supreet Bedi, was funny and quick-witted. She did a fantastic job of keeping everyone in high spirits and excited for the three rounds of the competition. Surbhi Tewari was crowned 2015's KS Miss Maxim. She was presented the sash and crown by Malaika Arora Khan. The runners-up were Meetali Ohri, Akshata Ghorpade, Ishit Yamini and Sonakshi Wadhawan.

The choreographer and event talent manager, Nisha Harale Bedi, spent a day with the finalists before the show, working on their ramp walk and self-confidence. She was quite proud of the results and felt the girls put in a lot of hard work.

The musically-inclined Ash Chandler had everyone singing along to his rendition of "Wake Me Up When It's All Over" between rounds, and Shibani Kashyap also decided to join him onstage for the sing-along.

Hands down, the swimsuit round got the maximum amount of cheering and hooting—the finalists were a perfect mixture of confident and sexy as they walked the ramp.

Surbhi Tewari impressed the judges the most and was crowned KS Miss Maxim 2015, while Meetali Ohri, Akshata Ghorpade, Ishit Yamini and Sonakshi Wadhawan were announced as the runners-up. The evening ended on a high note with guests enjoying a lovely dinner over typically Maxim conversations. Diwakar Pundir, Amy Bilimoria, Dalip Tahil, Alex O'Neil, Mayank Shekhar, Harmeet Singh, Shibani Kashyap, Vandana Sajnani Khattar, Natasha Singh, and Girish Malik were spotted enjoying the evening. To wrap things up, Vivek Pareek, the erstwhile editor of Maxim, said, "Unlike last year, the screening process of the Miss Maxim contest was more intense this year. The hunt for the hottest girl next door just seems to grow from strength to strength, and I look forward to continued success. The fact that there is no bar to entry really makes this contest unique."







EVENTHIGHLIGHTS

Malaika Arora Khan was full of encouragement for the contestants, and she told them to just be themselves. Perfect advice, if you ask us. The contestants were refreshingly honest in the Q&A round. Ishit was asked: "What will you do if you win a lottery?" Her reply: "If it's in crores I'll buy a house, and if it's in lakhs, I'll throw a massive party!" True to Maxim style.

Describing his experience as a jury member, Nachiket Barve said, "It was heartening to see the efforts put in by the contestants and it's always nice to see a deserving winner crowned. And it was lovely hanging out with my fellow judges!"

Stand-up comic Ash Chandler's advice to the contestants was straightfoward: "Please be yourself. We've seen the others." Looks like the jury members were looking out for similar qualities. A couple of guys in the audience were seen engaged in a heated argument over who would win. One of them wanted the attractive emcee to participate as well. But at the end of the night everyone went home happy with the results (and a little drunk).

Three hot anchors from Zoom TV were on red carpet duty and they did a fantastic job of getting everyone pumped before the show started.

THE CONTESTANTS











ANJALI





ISHIT









GEETANJALI

ANKITA

OUR PICK OF THE LADIES WHO GOT THE MAXIMUM VOTES ON THE MISS MAXIM WEBSITE.









NINA

EKTA



BHAVNA









NEELAM NAZIYA

SONAKSHI

SHINJINI

THE FINALÉ JURY

SOME OF THE **BIGGEST NAMES** IN THE FASHION. **GLAMOUR AND ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY HELPED US** FIGURE THIS **OUT-THESE GUYS** ARE AWESOME!



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MALAIKA ARORA KHAN Actor and Jury Chairperson



ASH CHANDLER Comedian and Actor



Former Maxim Editor



RANJU KUMAR MOHAN Director and Business Head, JK Ansell Ltd.



JATIN KAMPANI Photographer



NACHIKET BARVE Fashion Designer

THE WINNERS

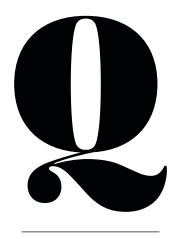




MATTHEW McCONAUGHEY

IN THE PAST YEAR, HE'S WON EVERY AWARD IMAGINABLE. HE HAS A GORGEOUS WIFE, THREE KIDS, AND THE HOTTEST CAREER IN HOLLYWOOD, INCLUDING A STARRING ROLE IN HBO'S HIT SERIES *TRUE DETECTIVE*. SO HOW DOES HE EXPLAIN THE "McCONNAISSANCE"? HE JUST KEPT LIVIN'.

by DAVID SWANSON



The last year was pretty good to you: the Golden Globe and an Oscar for *Dallas Buyers Club*, stealing scenes in *The Wolf of Wall Street*, Emmy nom for *True Detective*, 2014's biggest TV show, and...*Maxim* Icon.

You know, it looks like a different magazine. It looks like the paper stock is thicker, and the whole thing seems more substantial. It looks more current, not all "Hey, let's give you hot ass, boners, and beer," but it still has a good, sexy edge to it.

Thanks, but let's be honest, those other honours are *almost* as big a deal. So what happened? Five years ago, it seemed like you were a shirtless Malibu hunk playing bongos. Now you're married with kids and winning every award short of the Nobel Peace Prize.

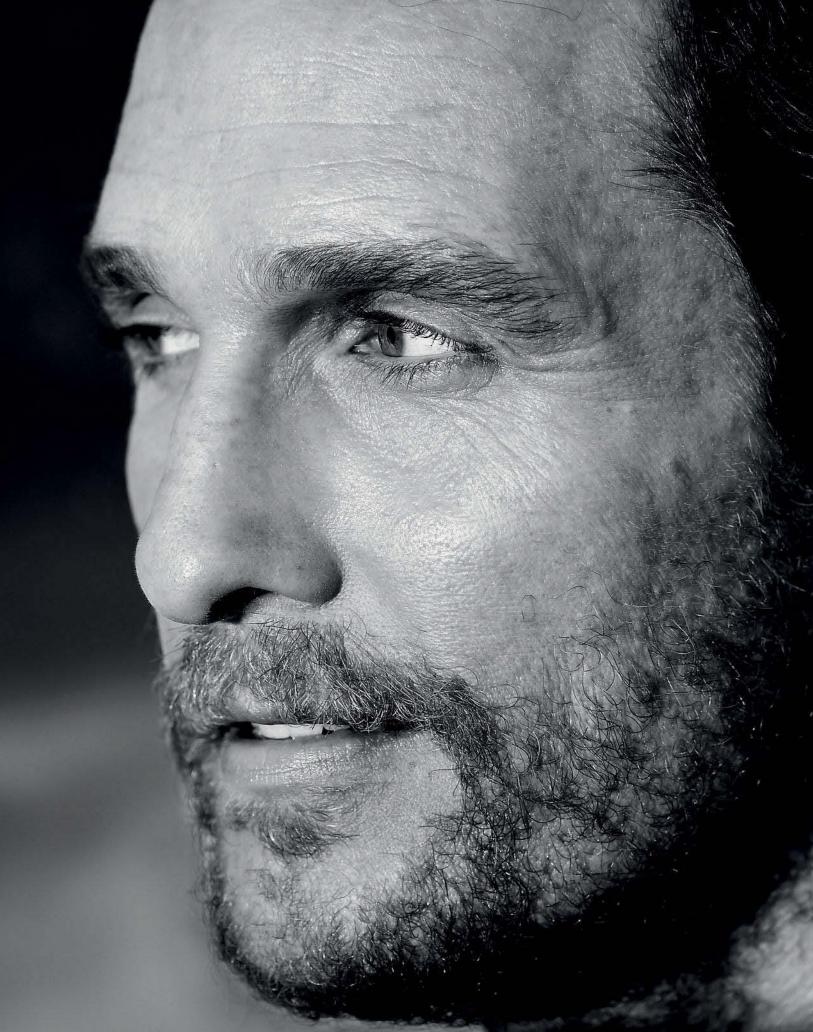
Well, there wasn't any "road to Galilee" moment, but the stars have to align, and a lot of things have been aligning for me wonderfully. Does my wife, Camila [Alves], coming into my life have something to do with it? Absolutely. Does becoming a father have something to do with it? Absolutely. Just being in my 40s—it's a different chapter. You customise in your 40s. So does that have something to do with it? Absolutely. Does luck have something to do with it? Absolutely.

Did your professional choices play their part, too?

Sure. I remember saying to myself, "I want to grow and have more life experiences through my work. I want to come out the other side of an experience that scares the shit out of me, and I don't know how different I'll be on the other side, but let's go." That's where a lot of my choices have come from. I huddled with my agent and my wife, and said, "I'm going to start saying no to the things I've been doing, and the work's going to dry up." I talked to my financial adviser, and he said, "Your money's good; you can pay the rent; you're going to be able to live the same lifestyle." So I was like, "Let's do it!" I put the memo out to my agent, and that was that. It took about a year for the industry to stop sending me any more of the things I'd been doing, and then there was just nothing. Bone dry. Nothing.

Was there a turning point?

The turning point after two years of anonymity, I think, was *Killer Joe*. I didn't rebrand, I *unbranded*. I stepped off into the shadows, went back and started a family down in Texas. Mind you, I got nervous during that time. I got anxious. I had some sleepless nights, wondering when the levee was going to break, or if it was even going





"I REMEMBER **SAYING TO** MYSELF, 'I WANT TO GROW AND HAVE MORE LIFE EXPERIENCES THROUGH MY WORK! SO I **HUDDLED WITH MY** AGENT AND MY WIFE, AND SAID, 'I'M **GOING TO START** SAYING NO TO THE THINGS I'VE BEEN DOING. AND THE WORK'S **GOING TO DRY** UP.' AND THEN THERE WAS JUST NOTHING."

to break at all. And then I started getting calls from directors. It was like a two-year boomerang that finally came back. All of a sudden William Friedkin calls, Steven Soderbergh calls, Lee Daniels calls, Rick [Richard Linklater] calls.

Rick gave you your first big break as Wooderson in *Dazed and Confused*. I couldn't help wondering, if Wooderson grew up, would he become Dallas in *Magic Mike*, Mark Hanna in *The Wolf of Wall Street*, Ron in *Dallas Buyers Club*, or Rustin Cohle from *True Detective*?

I don't think he would be any of those. I actually think he's got redheaded triplet daughters, and he's a late-night DJ in a little town in Texas. You know why Wooderson was cool? He was who he was. He wasn't trying to be anyone else, and he wasn't selling himself to anybody. Live and let live. Do your thing, and I'll do mine. I don't see him changing that much, and I definitely don't see him having the ambition some of those other characters had.

Like Wooderson, you grew up in Texas. What was high school McConaughey like? Man, I was catching more green lights in my life than I ever had before. I was 18, dating the best-looking girl, had a job, cash in my pocket, I'd made straight A's, Mom and Dad were happy. Life was rolling. Then I go to Australia for a year, and it was like a screeching halt. I was living in a town in the bush with a population of 206 people—

Dad were happy. Life was rolling. Then I go to Australia for a year, and it was like a screeching halt. I was living in a town in the bush with a population of 206 people—but I'd been *told* I was going to be living in Sydney. I didn't have a car, had to wear a uniform, and they put me back in the 11th grade. I started going a little nuts. But I had given a handshake to the people back home and told them I wouldn't come back for a whole year, so I was going to stick to it.

Travel seems like a big priority to you.

I could easily say my biggest inspiration has been culture. I've chosen to travel not just to nice, comfy places. And I think part of the reason I like those trips is that they are places where I spiritually get some anonymity. Anonymity is good for the soul, and it's good for what I do as an artiste and an actor.

What's the wildest place you've been? I've done this trip to Mali a couple of times, where I took a flight into Bamako, the capital, and hitchhiked nine hours to where the Bani and Niger rivers meet. I found somebody who spoke broken English, drew a map in the dirt showing where I wanted to go, haggled with them about the cost, and just did it.

Why Mali?

The first trip was actually to find a musician, Ali Farka Touré, who passed away a number of years ago. I'd just been turned on to this Ali Farka-Ry Cooder album, and I had a recurring dream about going to Africa. Same dream: 11 seconds, 11 frames, and five years apart. So, the second time I had it, I knew I had to go. I said, "Let's go find Ali Farka and see where the trip goes." Twenty-three days later, it was the greatest walkabout I'd ever had. Then I went back and did the exact same trip five years later.

You mentioned anonymity. On your travels, do the locals ever mistake you for guys like Brad Pitt or Leo DiCaprio?

No, I've never gotten those two. This one tribe, because of my white skin and beard, thought I looked like Chuck Norris. That's about it. They don't even know what I do. I go under some alias and make up some story about what I do.

What's your alias?

Oh, I've got a bunch of good ones, it just depends on the time and the place. I learned that in college. We had a buddy who was great to fuck with, so anytime we'd go do something and get busted, the cops would ask, "What's your name?" and we would go, "My name is Danny Harris" [laughs]. Poor Danny Harris is still in Austin, Texas, defending himself to this day.

True Detective blew up this year. How'd you end up with it?

There were only two episodes written, and they came to me with the Marty role: the one Woody Harrelson played. I read it and said, "I love it, but I'm this guy Rustin Cohle. If you want me for it, let's talk about *that*." The director, Cary Joji Fukunaga, and Nic Pizzolatto, the writer and executive producer, came to Austin and we had a night together, and the next day they gave me Officer Cohle.

Did you have any idea what a phenomenon the show would become? We watched it like everybody else, every Sunday night. I'd either stay tuned and watch it again, back-to-back, on Sunday, or watch it again, like, Monday or Tuesday night. I watched them on average three times apiece. Even I didn't know what the hell was going to happen. I mean, I knew what the ending was, but I didn't know what episode-to-episode would be. So I was just as surprised as everybody else, in a way. I loved it.

And then you starred in Christopher Nolan's *Interstellar*, which was one of the biggest blockbusters of the year.

Well, look, I haven't even seen the final cut yet, but from what I *have* seen, I can tell you this, straight and honestly: It's the most enormous and epic adventure I've ever seen on film. I don't think anyone does scope larger or better than Christopher Nolan. At the same time, the film is incredibly intimate and personal. And for a film this size to be that personal is really impressive.

How do you prepare for a heroic leadingman role, after these somewhat dark or damaged characters?

The challenge—I realised this very early on—is that my character, Cooper, is supposed to be the everyman, and I was like, "Who the hell is that today? Who is the everyman?" It's not like Don Draper in the '50s or '60s. So I worked hard with Chris to make this personal. Cooper's not perfect by any means. He performs some incredibly heroic acts, but at the same time it's not like he's always right—or comes up with the perfect answer or solution. But Chris has an incredible mind, man. Just the capacity with which he holds on to the concept and knows how to see it through in his films is amazing.

I know you studied some of the science behind the movie. Would you ever want to travel to Mars? They're trying to establish a colony there in the next decade.

I wouldn't do it as a guinea pig, now that I have a family. Still, it would be interesting as a trip, if you believed there was a good chance of being successful. But you'd probably have to go train and say goodbye to the family for a year. I don't know about that.

But you'd also go down as a legend, like Neil Armstrong or Christopher Columbus. Yeah, that doesn't concern me very much. It

Yeah, that doesn't concern me very much. would be a nice thing to check off your

things-I-got-to-do list, but notoriety or fame doesn't do much for me.

You're known for throwing great parties and the "Just keep livin'" philosophy. So what are some of your tricks?

I'll tell you a good one. Have someone offer a really nice tequila shot at the door. It just raises everyone's temperature a full degree, and 50 percent more people will be dancing a few hours later. Here's another secret: If people get there at, say, 6 pm, tell them dinner is at 8 pm. But it's never really at 8 pm; it's 10 or 10:30, so people are starving. That way, no matter how much you cook, even if you're a great cook, it tastes even better because they're so damn hungry. Although sometimes my brother won't even eat because he doesn't want to disrupt his buzz. But we usually don't do anything too formal. We'll just get around the grill and I'll end up cooking steaks and shooting the shit.

What about music?

You've gotta have a different playlist for every party. You've got to think about what the day is, what the event is, and then plan how long it's going to go and when you want the party to peak and when you want it to really get rocking. The challenge is that you've always got clever little guests who, after a couple of those tequila shots, want to DJ, so you've got to hide your music player.

Being a good host is a skill.

Yeah, I got it from my dad. We'd have a yearly Super Bowl party at our lake house.

Wasn't he drafted by the Packers? Yup, in 1953.

So does that make you a Packers fan or a Cowboys fan?

I'm a Redskins fan!

What? How the hell does a guy from Texas, whose father was drafted by Green Bay, end up a Redskins fan?

Well, when you're four years old and you're watching westerns with your dad and you find yourself rooting for the Indians, it starts like that. And your favourite food is hamburgers, and they have a middle linebacker, number 55, named Chris Hanburger. Then you've got John Riggins running the ball, and Joe Gibbs and the Fun Bunch, and the Hogs and such.

Even in Dallas, I'd have a robe wrapped around me painted burgundy and gold, and a headdress on in Texas Stadium. I will say the two best-looking uniforms are the Redskins, number one, and the Packers, number two.

Redskins aside, you seem to have your priorities in order. Do you think that's one of the reasons for this comeback?

I do feel pretty good about keeping my priorities consistent over the years. I mean, I don't think anyone's got it all figured out: There's times when it rolls smooth and everything is real clear, and times when things get fuzzy. If you've got any ambition or take any risks, things are going to get fuzzy, and it's just a question of working through the fuzz to get to the other side and find the clarity again. Now mind you, recently a big thing for clarity in my life and direction is family.

It seems like things started turning around for you right around when you found Camila.

Listen, a good woman is a great thing for a man to have. And then you have children, and all of a sudden, as a father, you've got a small kingdom that you've got to oversee. I like to say that as a father, your peripheral vision gets much better. And you know, resilience is definitely a McConaughey trait. That was handed down from my parents. So that helps me get past the stuff that sucks a lot more quickly, and it helps me appreciate the stuff that's working out.

Do you just take things moment by moment, or is there something more? Is time really a flat circle, as Rust Cohle claims?

I don't think *each* moment is significant. Sometimes we create false drama and make every single moment feel *so* significant. There is significance in all of the moments put together, but *every* moment is not that significant. We say this in our family all the time: "No drama, man. Let's deal." Drama is going to come. It is. Someone's going to get mortally sick, people are going to die, so we try not to sweat the small stuff.

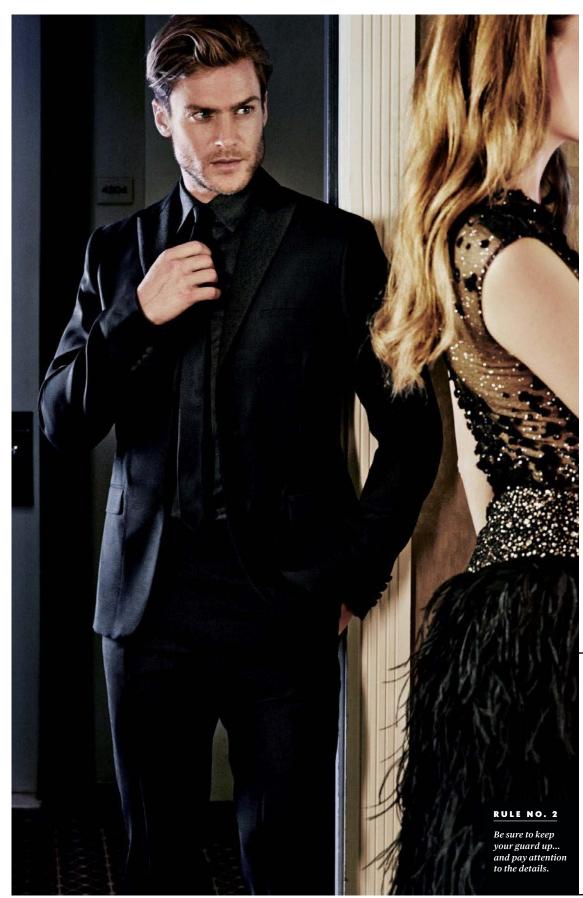




"HE LOOKED CAREFULLY AROUND THE ROOM TO SEE IF ANYTHING HAD BEEN **FORGOTTEN** AND SLIPPED HIS SINGLE-BREASTED DINNER-JACKET COATOVER HIS HEAVY SILK EVENING SHIRT... HE VERIFIED IN THE MIRROR THAT THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO SIGN OF THE FLAT GUN **UNDER HIS** LEFT ARM." -IAN FLEMING CASINO ROYALE, 1953

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"ALTOGETHER, BOND DECIDED, SHE WAS A VERY LOVELY GIRL AND BENEATH HER RESERVE, A VERY PASSIONATE ONE. AND, HE REFLECTED, SHE MIGHT BE A POLICEWOMAN AND AN EXPERT AT JUJITSU, BUT SHE ALSO HAD A MOLE ONHER RIGHT BREAST." -IAN FLEMING MOONRAKER, 1955





"A QUOTATION
HAD COME
INTO BOND'S MIND
AS HIS CAB
MOVED OUT
OF PENNSYLVANIA
STATION: 'SOME
LOVE IS FIRE, SOME
LOVE IS RUST.
BUT THE FINEST,
CLEANEST LOVE IS
LUST: NEITHER
HAD ANY REGRETS."
—IAN FLEMING
GOLDFINGER,
1959





STYLING SETH HOWARD

HAIR JENNIFER BRENT/ EXCLUSIVE ARTISTS

MAKE-UP BERNADINE BIBIANO/JUDY CASEY INC.

MANICURE SOFIA SHUSTEROV/JUDY CASEY INC.

STYLING ASSISTANT JAYCEE CANDY WILLIAMS

SHOT ON LOCATION AT THE LONDON NYC.

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142, Ground Floor, DLF Place Saket Select Citywalk, New Delhi; Carrera, carreraworld.com: Boss Orange, hugoboss. com: Emporio Armani. Shop No. 126, Ground Floor, DLF Emporio, Nelson Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj II, New Delhi p. 30 Brooks Brothers, Shop No. G - 30, Ground Floor, Ambience Mall, Gurgaon: Gucci. The Oberoi, Dr. Zakhir Hussain Marg, Khan Market, New Delhi; Portside Café, Shop No. 2/21-3/22 Kamal Mansion, First Floor, Arthur Bunder Road, Colaba, Mumbai; Thomas Pink, Shop No. F22, Second Floor, The Palladium, 462, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai; Tie Rack London, Inorbit Mall. Shoppers Stop, Plot No. 1406 A, Link Road, Mumbai. p. 36 Kevin Carrigan, Chung Sung-Jun/Getty Images; tailored jacket, Elnur/Shutterstock; pile of denims, Ruslan Semichev/ Shutterstock; boots, nito/ Shutterstock; Rolex watch, courtesy of Rolex.com p. 38 Workout, Paul Gilham/ Getty Images pp. 40-41 Rajesh K N/ Dreamstime pp. 42-43 Living roots, Niaz Akhtar/Dreamstime: Kurseong, @agefotostock/ Alamy; Ladakh, Rana Sidhu p. 44 Auli, S4sanchita/ Dreamstime: Udaipur. Vladmir Sklyarov/ Dreamstime; hot air balloon, Badboo/ Dreamstime; Puducherry, ewamewa2/Dreamstime pp. 46-47 Jimmy Page, Pictorial Press Ltd/Alamy, Jimmy Page holding book, Everett Collection Inc/Alamy p. 48 Abstract portrait painting, S. Splajn/

p. 52 Image courtesy of Laucala Island Resort p. 53 Super Falcon Mark II courtesy of Deep Flight p. 53 Runner, Glen Burrows/ thelicensingproject.com **p. 58** Superior SS 100 courtesy of Brough Motorcycles pp. 60-67 Futurology, facebook.com/ futurologybygn; Intimate Street, Shop No. 4, Main Market, Lodhi Road, New Delhi; Manifest Design, manifestdesign.in; Malini Ramani, maliniramani.com: Melissa Odabash, odabash. com: Moeva London. moeva.com; Payal Pratap available at perniaspopupshop.com; Rara Avis, Shop No. M-27, Second Floor, Road No. 10, Greater Kailash II, New Delhi; Suhani Pittie, suhanipittie.com/shop/; Jimmy Choo, jimmychoo. com; Viange, Industry Manor, Third Floor, Prabhudevi, Mumbai pp. 68-74 ICC World Cup conference, Matthew Lewis/Getty Images; England VS India, Stu Forster/Getty Images; England and India Nets Session, Dean Mouhtaropoulos/Getty Images; Army Honors, Mail Today/Getty Images; India Press Conference and Nets Session, Tony Marshall/ Getty Images; England VSIndia: 1st Investec Test, Gareth Copley/Getty Images; Portrait, Christopher Lee/Getty Images; England VS India: 5th Investec Test, Gareth Copley/Getty Images; England VS India - Royal London, Gareth Copley/ Getty Images; New Zealand VS India, Anthony Au-Yeung/Getty Images pp. 76-85 Aé-Tèe, facebook.com/

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-Paralympics, Hannah Peters / Staff/Getty Images; Zanardi with models, Jamie Squire/ Getty Images; Zanardi with Jodie Meares, Mark Thompson/Getty Images; Zanardi wearing helmet, Robert Laberge/Getty **Images** pp. 104-107 Matthew McConaughey, Frazer Harrison/Getty Images; McConaughey, Kevin Winter/Getty Images; pp. 108-115 Polo Ralph Lauren, ralphlauren.com; DKNY, dkny.com; Gant, Shop No. SCO 104-105, Second Floor, Sector 17 C. Chandigarh; Paul Smith,

Shop No. G10B, The Palladium Mall, Lower Parel, Mumbai; Pamella Roland, pamellaroland. com; Michael John, michaeljohnjewelry.com, Ermenegildo Zegna, zegna. com: Paul Stuart, paulstuart. com, Proper Cloth, propercloth.com. Brunello Cucinelli, brunellocucinelli. com; Calvin Klein, Shop No. 38, Select CityWalk Mall, Saket, New Delhi; Sylvie, Sylviecollection.com; Reem Acra, reemacra,com: Tommy Hilfiger, Shop No. 21 & 22, GVK Mall, Road No. 1, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad.



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MAXIM HOT NEWS

THE NEW FITNESS MANTRA

Gone are the days when people restricted themselves to marathons for racing.

The notion has now been extended to Adventure Racing which has gone beyond 'stadion', the oldest event of the Olympic Games, or 'steeplechase' in contemporary times. When it comes to participating in such races, it is all about challenging the fittest and gaining 'The Medal of Respect'. This new brand of suffering has found its new place in India and with this Great Rocksport Pvt. Ltd., along with actor and MTV VJ Rannvijay Singh Singha, started

Rocksport Challenge in 2012 where he throws a challenge to the racers to discover their physical strength and problem-solving abilities. The Race inspires people more than they thought possible. Organised amidst the picturesque hilly terrain of the Aravalis, Hansaplast Rocksport Challenge Season 3 was a notch ahead—a five-km adventure race that required participants to run on mountain trails, climb rocks, cross water ditches and military-style

obstacles. In addition to the race is an adventure carnival, featuring activities such as zorbing, hot air ballooning, quad biking, paintballing, etc. along with food stalls and live music. Overall, Hansaplast Rocksport Challenge provides the fun of jungle adventures over the mundane city life. This year the race had nearly 1,500 runners who included school students and individuals from 10 to 60 years old from all over the country and abroad.











MAXIM HOT NEWS



THE ALL-NEW MARUTI SUZUKI CIAZ

Explore the all-new Maruti Suzuki Ciaz with improved transmission and fuel efficiency in both petrol and diesel variants.

Its elegant design creates a superior aesthetic appeal while its aerodynamic style adds a stunning effect to its looks. The Maruti Suzuki Ciaz truly sets the standards for the rest to aspire to. No wonder, when you're behind the wheel, the only thing ahead is an open road. Ciaz is equipped with highly advanced features like Camera Assisted Reverse Parking, Keyless Push Start System and Smart Key. Along with that, intelligently designed features like Rear AC Vents, Personal Reading Lamps and Rear Sunshade ensure complete comfort for the passengers. Infusing a spacious and

relaxing feel, the ergonomically designed cabin and seats of the Maruti Suzuki Ciaz provide unmatched comfort in both the front and the rear. With ample leg room, head room and shoulder room, the driver and the passengers experience exceptional comfort and relaxation in the longest car in its class. Whether it's the manual transmission or the automatic variant of the Ciaz, each has been designed to offer unparalleled ease of driving. Optimised gear ratios and smooth shift mechanisms not only enhance driving dynamics but also ensure fuel efficiency.

MAXIM HOT NEWS

INDIA DOWN UNDER!

Continental Tyres takes a field trip to Australia.

On a cold Sunday morning, 31 of Continental Tyres' largest channel partners congregated in New Delhi with one 'goal' in mind—Australia. Continental is a major sponsor for the AFC Asian Cup 2015 and this gave the perfect opportunity to showcase the same to their channel partners in a way never done before in India. The duration of the trip was six days in all. It was an allexpenses paid luxurious tour of Sydney, the Gold Coast and Brisbane, consisting of spectacular cabaret performances on a cruise ship, a breathtaking tour of the infamous Blue Mountain, a star-struck tour of Movie World, and the Gold Coast and exhilarating jet boat rides. But the highlight of the trip was the AFC Match No. 10 between Australia and Oman at ANZ Stadium, Sydney. Set in the Champions Suite, overseeing an energetic and packed stadium this was truly a once-in-a-lifetime event.











TIME FOR TENNIS!

Rado was back in India as Official Timekeeper of the Aircel Chennai Open.

Rado's 2015 tennis tour continues with the Aircel Chennai Open. Held at the SDAT Tennis Stadium in Chennai, the hard court tournament took place from the 5th to 11th January, with Rado as Official Timekeeper for the 3rd consecutive year. As Official Timekeeper, Rado was on centre court with two corner clocks in the shape of the Rado HyperChrome timing every second of every match, as well as measuring the speed of every serve, for both the men's singles and doubles tournaments. The official watch of the tournament was the Rado HyperChrome Court Collection in blue representing the hard court that the Chennai Open is played on.





MANISH PAUL

The witty and talented actor-cumanchor talks life after death, and somehow manages to pull it off without cracking up.

Any deathbed confessions?

I'd tell my trainer that while he's been telling me to avoid sweets and follow a strict diet for the longest time, I've actually been cheating *a lot*.

How do you want to go?

I would like to go in my sleep, because I dream a lot. I'll just continue with that dream and go on into the unknown...

What's your last meal?

I would love to have a lot of sweets! I have multiple sweet teeth and I'm a complete foodie.

What's the one character you wish you had played?

I think it's too early to say but I would have loved to play Amitabh Bachchan's in *Deewar*.

What have you spent the most money on in your life?

It has to be my shoes! I love buying shoes so it's safe to say I spend the most on them.

Who was the villain of your life's story? Mathematics.

If you could come back and spy on someone who's still alive, who would it be?

Amitabh Bachchan, because I need to figure out how he gets his energy and how can one man still be so passionate after all these years.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

Fortunately, that's yet to come. I'm very happy when people appreciate my work and I feel good about it but the proudest is definitely yet to come.

What's the wildest thing you ever did when you were alive?

I went bungee jumping, and not just once. I

went five times back-to-back. The staff there had to stop me after the fifth jump.

Name one thing you're glad you'll never have to do again on Earth.

Study mathematics. I'm very happy that I don't have to fill out answers on exam papers anymore.

If you could, you would be reborn as? I'll be myself. I'm happy the way I am.

If hell is a bad movie, what role will you be forced to play?

I don't know because frankly I'm not able to choose my own role! People choose roles for me so I'd leave it to the director of hell to choose what he wants me to play.

Which of your movies will be playing in the great beyond?

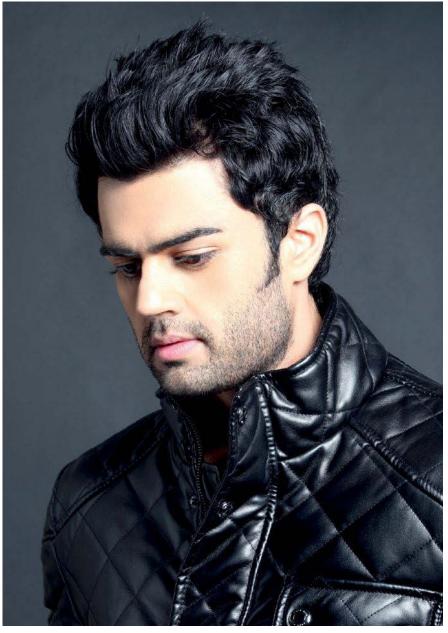
My first film, Mickey Virus.

What music will be playing at your funeral?

Oh, it *has* to be some Punjabi song. Probably Yo Yo Honey Singh singing "Bring Me Back."

Got any last words?

I believe in today. Enjoy today because you'll never know what happens tomorrow. I enjoy it rather than worrying about tomorrow.





Pond's Grooming Class



The Importance of a Good Moisturiser

It is considered the second most important part of your daily grooming routine and for good reason!





MAKE IT COUNT

Adding to the regime, Pond's Men

Energy Charge Gel Moisturiser boosts collagen production, increases skin elasticity, gives a smoother skin texture and adds brightness to the face. This range has been specially designed to fight damage caused by UV rays and enhance blood circulation and give the skin a healthy and energised glow throughout the day.

As men want to keep their regimen simple and no-fuss, Pond's Men Energy Charge Gel Moisturiser is exactly the product that'll give men what they need, while providing the benefits they want. Soon, Pond's Men will be introducing more and more products into the market-products that'll get men to look and feel their most recharged and energised self!

SO, WHY SHOULD YOU?

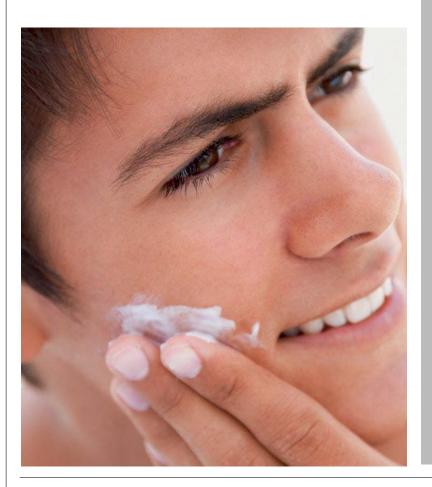




You shouldn't go a day without hydrating your skin-it has long-term benefits that you'll be thankful for later. Proper hydration will make your skin feel and look healthy, especially using moisturisers that contain caffeine that delivers that immediate plumping benefit—this is the stuff you want after a late night.



Moisturisers basically work by locking in water. They'll leave your skin feeling smoother, softer and fresher. The long-term benefits of moisturiser are multiple but the most important is fighting signs of ageing and skin cell depletion. Hydrated skin is able to heal faster and better.



1 Facts: Men's Skin Care



5. SUNSCREEN

Sunscreen is the best thing you can do to prevent ageing of your skin, and it should be applied whenever you expect to spend time outdoors. Some experts even recommend applying sunscreen right after shaving. Make sure it has an SPF factor of at least 15.

6. ANTI-AGEING TREATMENTS

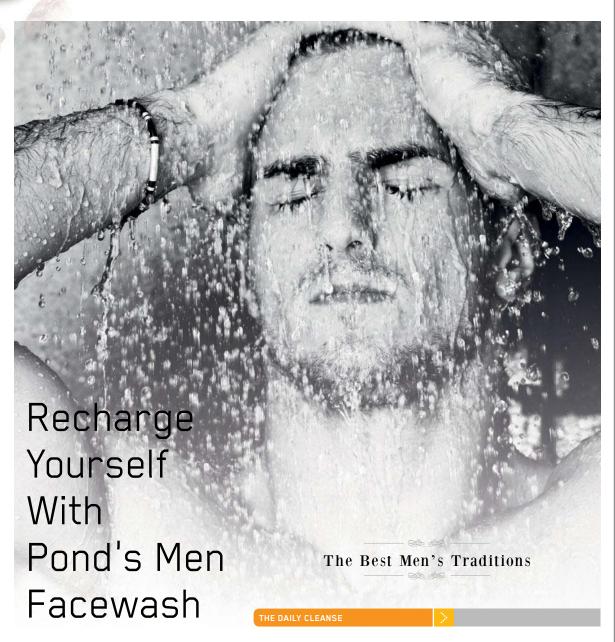
To treat skin that is beginning to show signs of age, like fine lines and dullness, consider an emollient—they treat discolouration, wrinkles, and the degeneration of elastic tissue.



All Images SHUTTERSTOCK



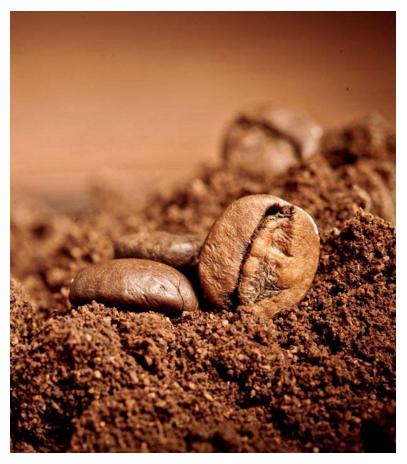
Pond's Grooming Class



The latest launches are grooming kit winners, if you ask us!

Hailing its hero product, new Pond's Men Energy Charge Face Wash, Pond's Men is looking to win over men and assert its way and become an integral part of men's regular skin regimen. It is the newest skin care brand for men to contain unique coffee bean extracts which give bright + energised skin for all young

urban men everywhere. With top skin care masterbrand Pond's fuelling Pond's Men's efforts and expertise, it's only a matter of time before Pond's Men will become the trusted skin care brand of choice among Indian men.



THE PRODUCTS YOU'LL NEED





Now available in India, the New Pond's
Men range gives men everywhere bright +
energised skin. Its main product offering
is the new Pond's Men Energy Charge Face
Wash-perfect for men with normal to dry
skin. It has the double ingredients of Coffee
Bean Extract known to stimulate tired skin
and make it look healthy and recharged;



and Cooling Menthol to instantly refresh skin. Also available is the new Pond's Men Oil Control Face Wash. This is perfect for men with oily skin. It also has the power of two special ingredients—Mineral Clay, known to instantly absorb oil, and Hazel Extract, known for its astringent

eed Facts: Men's Skin Care



3. AFTERSHAVE LOTION

The perfect solution to combat burning and soothe your skin after shaving. Aftershave lotions may contain an antiseptic to prevent infection. Some also contain a hydrating agent or a scent.

4. MOISTURISER

Your skin tends to get stripped of its natural oils and it dries out with age. There's nothing like a good moisturiser packed with antioxidants like vitamins to combat this and protect your skin from ageing. Avoid creams that will remove natural oils

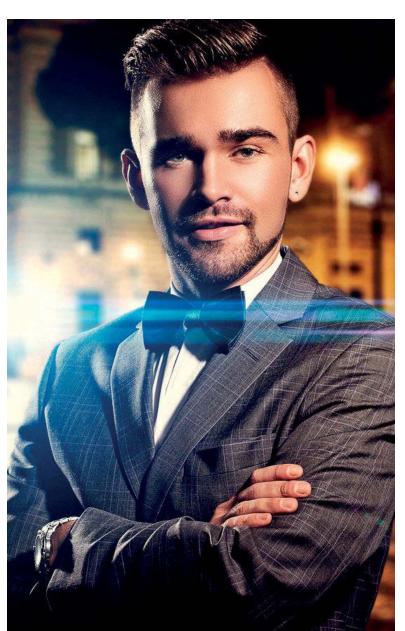




Pond's Grooming Class

What Men Want!

New Pond's Men is finally in India, and it's changing the way we look at skin care and grooming.



For a Real Gentleman

PLAY ON



SKIN CARE IS CRUCIAL

When you talk about beauty, men

often fall by the wayside. Women steal the spotlight, and brands naturally concentrate on giving women what they want and need. But, as beauty sensibilities evolve, what then happens to what men want and need? How then do the boys become "beautiful"....or well-groomed?

Pond's-the number one face care

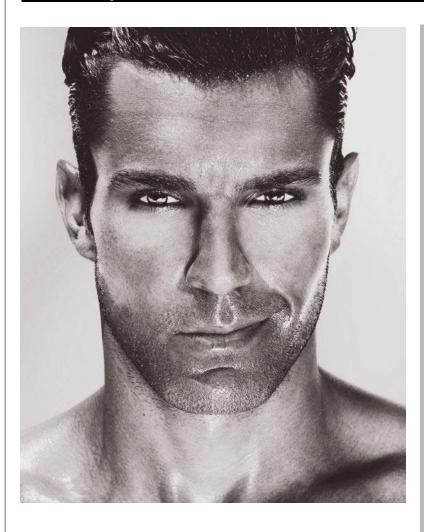
brand recognises that even men need to take care of and groom themselves. Giving a whole new perspective on being a debonair gentleman and modern and dapper, men nowadays are more active and goal-oriented than ever.

A modern man in today's culture

knows how to commit to his ambitions and to take charge. He's disciplined but definitely fun and sociable. This is a generation where a powerful masculine figure also cares about how he looks. These young go-getters understand the importance of looking good and feeling confident. Now, men take more pride in their appearance.







GET SKIN FIT

Pond's knows that there's definitely

a standing need to have skin care products dedicated to men's evolving skin concerns. After all, men's skin has a set of specific requirements-a different level of moisture, a stronger oil control mechanism, a specific amount of skin sensorial coolness, and of course, a certain energised skin effect. At the Pond's Institute, they acknowledge that it's high time men upgrade to a man's brand offering a higher order of benefits. And thus, with the understanding and acceptance of men's skin needs, born from the same heritage of much loved

products, and developed by the same meticulous level of expertise at the Pond's Institute, comes new Pond's Men.

What Men Want: Bright + Energised Skin

With Pond's Men, men finally have premium but potent products made to energise and recharge men's skin. No longer will men have to borrow their girlfriend's/ wife's /mother's skin care products. Instead, they will be able to get the benefits of brighter skin, minimised pores, and a healthy, energised glow by using products that specifically understand their skin.

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GROOMING **ESSENTIALS EVERY MAN NEEDS**

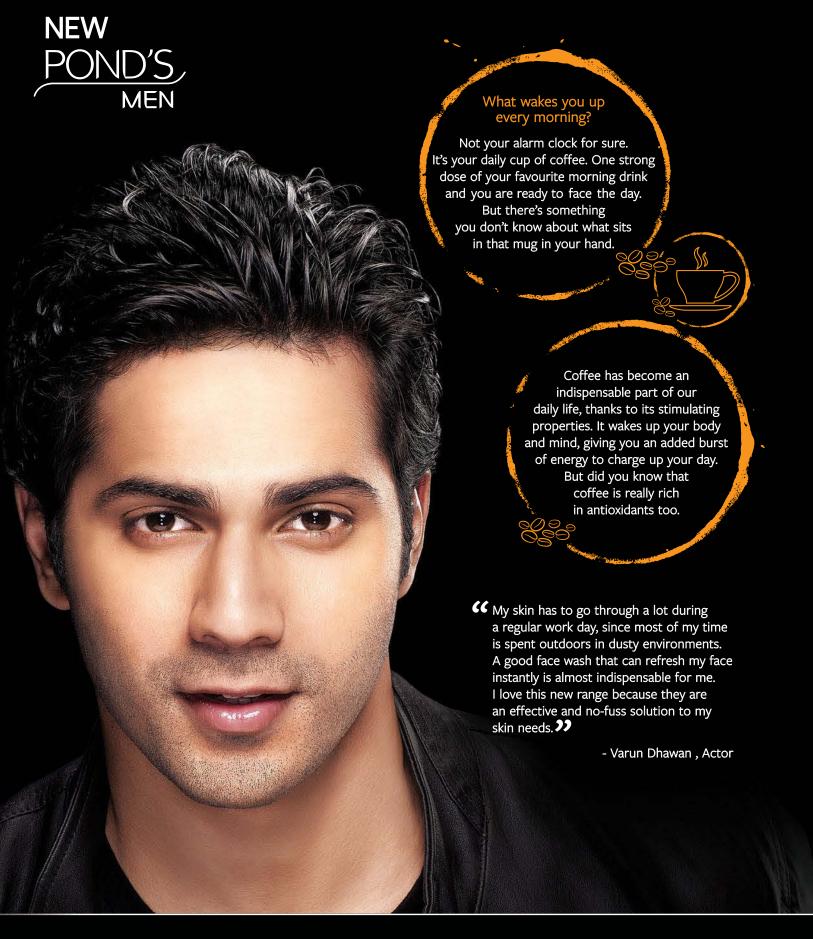
1. FACE **CLEANSER**

You should wash your face twice a day with a good cleanser. A good cleanser washes away dead skin cells and keeps your pores clean.

2. SHAVING CREAM/GEL

This is an important one. You want a product that will effectively lubricate your skin so that the razor glides over effortlessly, preventing razor burn. Using a brush makes the hair stand straighter for an easier shave.





A shot of coffee to boost your skin.

So you know that coffee is good for you. But here's a secret you probably didn't know.

Coffee is good for your skin too. Yes, it is! It is actually one of the oldest natural solutions for healthy skin.

means that it is known to rejuvenate more. No wonder coffee bean the skin cells, making your face bright and energized instantly. It is also known to enhance blood circulation in skin, to give your face a natural, healthy glow.

Also, it is known to have natural sunblock properties to protect your skin from damage caused by harmful Coffee is a natural antioxidant, which UV rays. Coffee can do all this and scrubs and beauty treatments are gaining popularity across the world. So why not have a coffee shot for your face too?

Presenting New Pond's Men Energy Charge Face Wash – Face Ka Charger.

Formulated with energizing coffee bean extracts, it not only cleanses the skin, but also brightens and re-energizes to give your face an instant and energized glow, so that your Face ki Battery is recharged.

Love your daily coffee routine? Now, try it for your face.



POND'S

FEBRUARY 2015

THE
SECRET
INGREDIENT
IT TAKES CARE OF ALL
YOUR PROBLEMS

MYTHS BUSTED! WE'VE GOT THE FACTS

GIVE YOUR SKIN A BOOS Introduce these dream products in your GROOMING REGIMEN

POND'S MEN

ENERGY CHARGE

FACE WASH

with Energizing Coffee Bean extract & Cooling Menthol

BRIGHT + ENERGIZED

50 g

SKINCARE TIPS

TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE

CLEANSE,

TONE, MOISTURISE REPEAT!

YOUR SKIN NEEDS A SHOT OF THIS!

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